OAG to seek intervention of Supreme Court. PAGE 2
CCC vice chair says IPI pushing commission to the wall. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

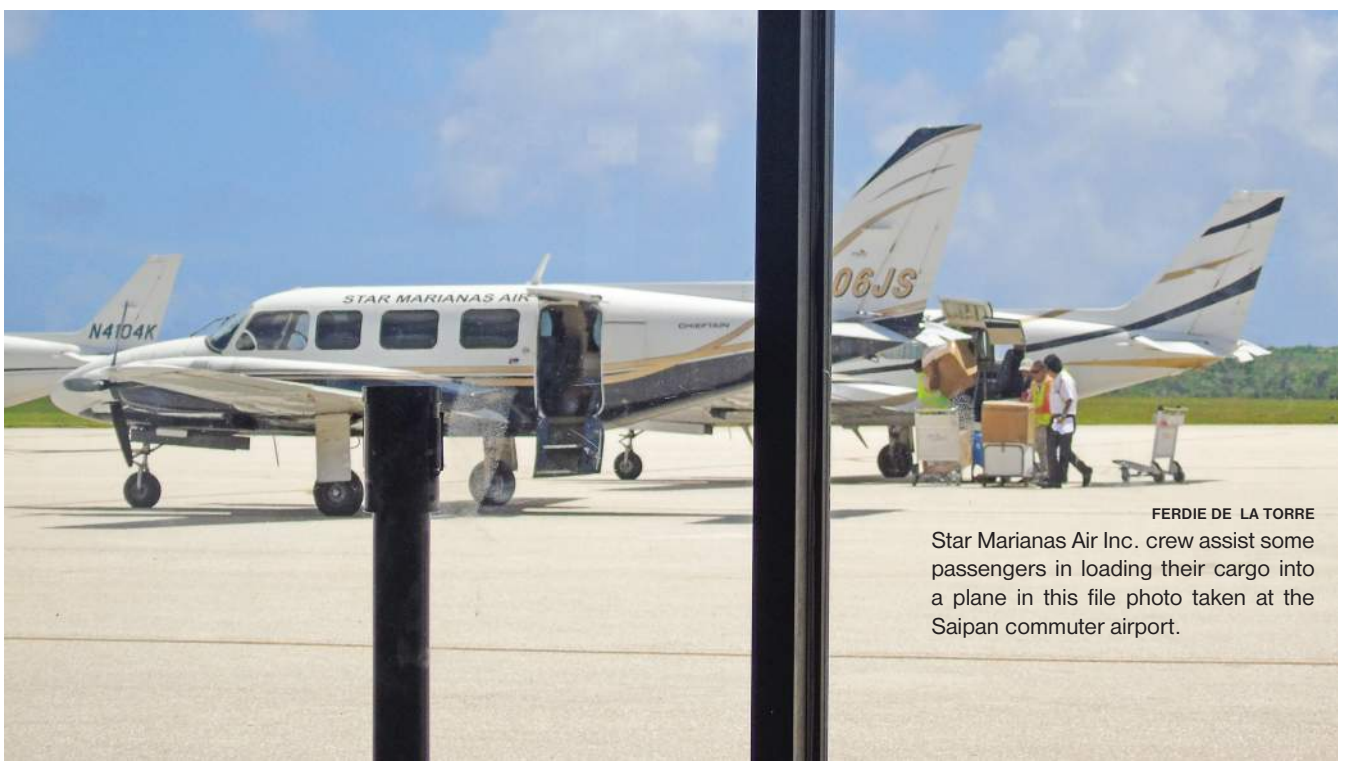
75¢

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 172

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY AUGUST 31, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Star Marianas adds 2 more flights



FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Star Marianas Air Inc. crew assist some passengers in loading their cargo into a plane in this file photo taken at the Saipan commuter airport.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Total of 11 Saipan-Rota flights per week

Star Marianas Air Inc. has decided to add two more flights per week between Saipan and Rota since last Tuesday due to an increase in demand throughout August.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Star Marianas Air president Shaun Christian said yesterday that with the addition of two more flights per week, this brings to a total of 11 flights per week between Saipan and Rota.

"We will continue to moni-

See STAR on Page 4

Two more travelers test positive for COVID-19

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two more individuals who recently traveled to Saipan have tested positive for COVID-19, both through travel screening, raising the CNMI's total confirmed cases to 56.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s statement, the 55th case was identified upon arrival and the 56th case was identified on the fifth day of testing. Additionally, both have been safely

See COVID-19 on Page 4

4,730 PUA applications yet to be processed

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It has been over five months since workers have been either terminated or in reduced hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), out of 8,312 applicants that the Department of Labor have received, 4,730 still await for their Pandemic

See PUA on Page 4

Marian Aldan-Pierce retires from DFS

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Today, Marian Aldan-Pierce is hanging up her Duty Free Saipan jersey after working in the company for 44 years. During those years, Aldan-Pierce built a reputation of dependability and created strong and long lasting relationships that extends even outside her office with the community work she does.

"I had been thinking of retirement for several years now…2020 had been the target year for a while… Having worked for so long, I needed time to thoroughly think about it and get ready for a life with no deadlines, meetings, etc.

See DFS on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marian Aldan-Pierce's retirement plan list is filled with many life goals and the list is endless.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 30, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,124	163	1,287
Recovered	434	54	488
Active	626	163	789
Deaths	10*	0	10*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			37,074

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	54	2	56
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,920*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

*With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Attorney General Edward Manibusan announced a more than $85-million multistate settlement with American Honda Motor Co., Inc. and Honda of America Mfg., Inc.

PAGE 11

ASIA
Japan's longest-serving prime minister, Shinzo Abe, said he is stepping down because a chronic health problem has resurfaced.

PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
Chadwick Boseman, known for playing Black Panther in the Marvel movieverse, has lost his battle with colon cancer.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

OAG to seek intervention of Supreme Court

By KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General believes Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is the only judge that allows "premature discovery" and is prepared to seek intervention from the Supreme Court.

In an email, John Bradley, OAG's criminal division chief prosecutor, said they are taking the position that Camacho is the only trial judge that considers premature discovery, resulting in substantial delays in preliminary hearings.

"If necessary, we will seek the intervention of the Supreme Court," Bradley said.

Bradley said the OAG is taking this action because victims of crime deserve timely presentation of their case.

"Victims of crime deserve a timely presentation of a criminal case consistent with the rules established by law. A preliminary hearing should not be used for anything more than a determination of probable cause. All other issues can be raised and resolved in front of the judge properly assigned to hear the complete case," he said.

In his email, Bradley refers to a case involving Vicente Sablan Basa, 68-year-old man accused of trying to run over Xing Henry with a motor vehicle and repeatedly ramming a parked vehicle in Kagman.

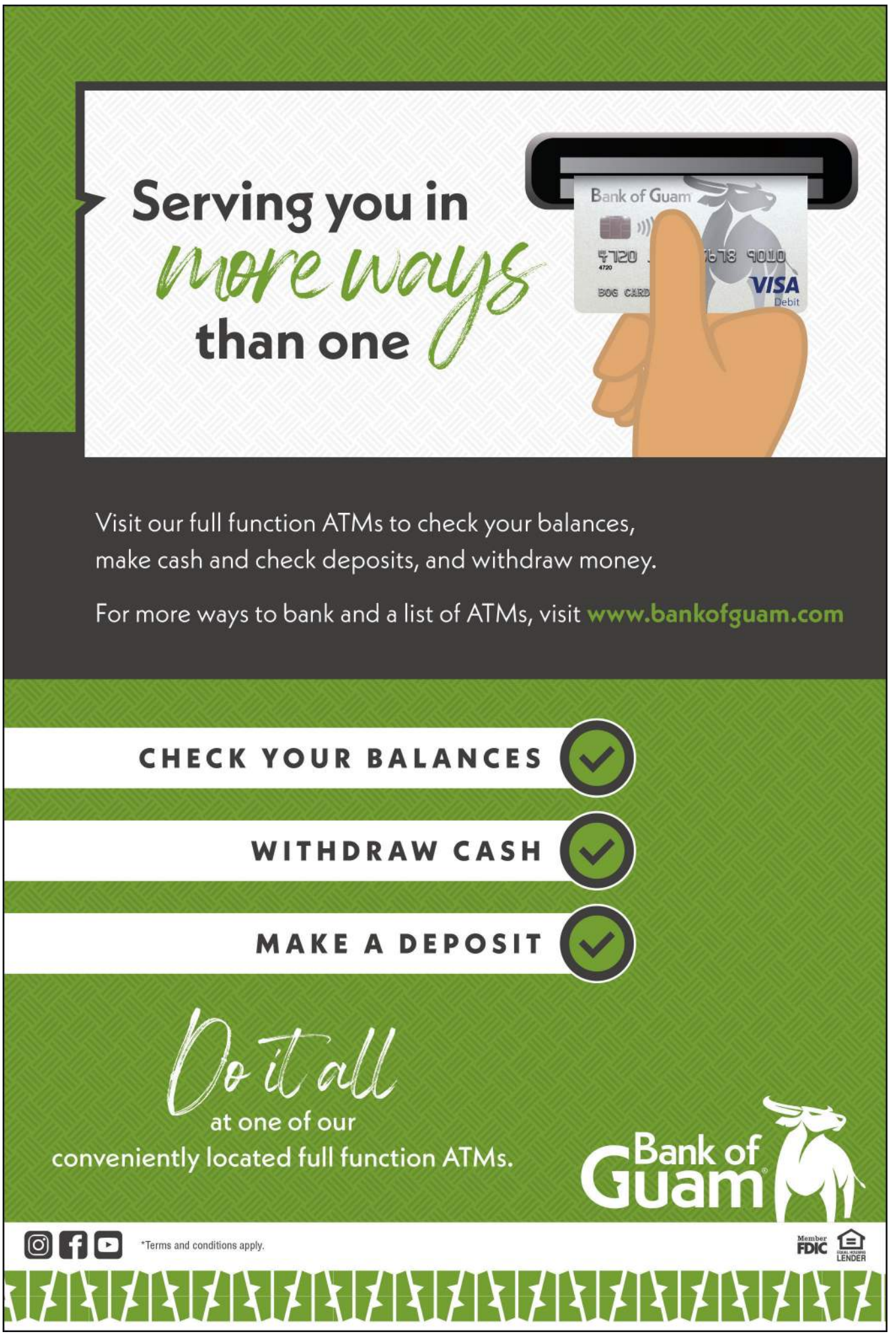
Bradley said the Office of the Public Defender requested the court to order the AG's office to produce all notes, police reports, and videos taken by the government in that case which ultimately resulted in the suspension of the preliminary hearing.

"This same type of request also occurred in another case involving Judge Camacho and we are opposing it as well. This is a developing issue," Bradley said.

Bradley explained that discovery begins under CNMI law after a defendant is arraigned, not at a preliminary hearing. The preliminary hearing is merely a short presentation of information to show the judge that there is sufficient information available to believe the defendant likely committed the offense. Probable cause is a very low standard, unlike the standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt at trial

Bradley also referred to another case that involved a sexual assault of a minor allegation.

The AG's office in that case is opposing the defense request to compel production of tangible materials used by law enforcement to establish probable cause.



Ex-Army Reserve convicted of wire fraud requests early release

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former U.S. Army Reserve member who is currently serving a 28-month prison term for wire fraud has asked the federal court for early release because of potential contraction of COVID-19 from other inmates.

According to court documents, Danielle Pfifferling, who represents Jordan Jucutan, said due to his client's underlying medical condition, obesity and asthma, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised that this would put him at an increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus.

Pfifferling noted that four inmates in Jucutan's prison have recently tested positive for COVID-19.

"Due to the communal liv-

See EX-ARMY on Page 4

Military to conduct training

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean Aug. 31 to Sept. 3 and Sept. 6 from 1pm to 11:55pm in Open Ocean, Agat Bay, Outer Apra Harbor, Dandan-Malojloj, Radio Barrigada, Northwest Field, Warning Area 13, and Farallon de Medinilla

Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training in Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor Aug. 31 to Sept. 6 from 1pm to 11:55pm.

Simulated ammunition will be used in this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity and are advised to remain clear of units in the area.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Dandan-Malojloj and Radio Barrigada Aug. 31 to Sept. 2 from 11pm to 11:55pm.

Simulated ammunition will be used in this training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in open ocean Sept. 1-3 from 8am to 11pm at the following coordinates: 13˚45''N/144˚20''E, 13˚45''N/144˚36''E, 13˚30''N/144˚36''E, 13˚30''N/144˚20''E, 13˚29''N/144˚25''E.

Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Air Force will conduct live fire training in Northwest Field on Andersen Air Force Base Sept. 3 from 8am to 2pm.

The unit will be closing traffic for 10-20 minute intervals on Route 3A around the quarry area during the training. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Dandan-Malojloj and Radio Barrigada Sept. 3 and 6 from 1pm to11:55pm.

Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in Warning Area 13 and Farallon de Medinilla Sept. 6 from noon to 11:55pm.

Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of Farallon de Medinilla by 12 nautical miles for the duration of this event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. ***(PR)***

CCC vice chair says IPI pushing commission to the wall

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission vice chair Ramon M. Dela Cruz said Thursday that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is pushing CCC to the wall by coming up with the same old story that there is again a delay with the payroll for IPI employees.

At CCC's monthly meeting at their conference room at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Dela Cruz said a lot of IPI employees have been demonstrating and coming not only to the commission but also to elected officials to complain.

He said this is putting a blackeye on IPI.

Dela Cruz expressed disappointment with IPI, after IPI human resources director Redie Dela Cruz disclosed that they are up to date with payroll, but that for payroll for pay period 18 which was scheduled for Friday would likely not be out.

"I've been informed that there will be a delay in tomorrow's payout and it will be distributed as early as next week," director Dela Cruz said Thursday.

She said they are drafting the memo to send out to all employees about that.

CCC chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero urged HR director Dela Cruz to work with IPI's chief executive officer Donald Browne to make sure that payroll should be on time.

"We cannot continue this delay. The corporate office should know. They should move the money much earlier," Deleon Guerrero said.

The chairman also disclosed that it was brought to his attention that several of the previous key employees have five months of severance pay that they are still waiting.

HR director Dela Cruz said IPI had to delay the processing of the hours because there is not enough funding in pay period 17 to payout those employees' final hours.

Deleon Guerrero said it's terrible news to hear that as he cited CCC's order 2020-003 requires IPI to reserve payroll in advance.

HR director Dela Cruz agreed with the chair that IPI is not in compliance with that CCC order.

Deleon Guerrero said this announcement on any pay period that money wasn't transferred to the Guam payroll company and other things, "is turning to be old story."

He said IPI's corporate office needs to move the money in advance so they can meet the Friday payroll.

Director Dela Cruz agreed with Deleon Guerrero that it is her opinion that it's a violation of CNMI and federal laws for consistently not making payroll payment on time.

Vice chair Dela Cruz said they hear this excuse every time they met at CCC.

"These are very trying times for our people," said vice chair Dela Cruz, adding that it's not only because of the COVID-19 pandemic situation but also for people who are furloughed.

He said a lot of people, including IPI employees, are struggling. "Every time we discussed this we try to urge you to communicate this concern with the corporate office in Hong Kong and let them know that this thing has to be done ahead of time," the vice chair told HR director Dela Cruz.

The vice chair said it is very critical that HR communicate that concern to IPI's corporate office because patience is running thin especially for the affected employees.

He, however, commended the director for "trying your very best."

Democratic Party candidates certified

All the candidates of the NMI Democratic Party have been officially certified by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

The NMI Democratic Party handed certificates to all 18 candidates that are running for a seat in the CNMI government this coming election, officiating their candidacy.

The Democratic Party candidates who are running for a seat in the CNMI House of Representatives and Senate are Celina R. Babauta, Antonio Cabrera, Peter Muna, Benusto Piteg, Edwin Propst, Christina-Marie Elise Sablan, Luella Marciano, Vicente Camacho, Corina Magofna, Denita Yangetmai, Alfredo Saures, Jenita Castro, Sheila Babauta, Richard Lizama, Leila Staffler, Frederick Dela Cruz, Edith Deleon Guerrero, and Jose Cruz.

According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) who presented the certificates, it's good to see so many candidates in the Democratic Party as it would result in much needed competition in the CNMI.

"Competition of ideas are great. It's healthy to compete. I'm glad the Democrats have put out more choices and we'll see, let the people decide," he said.

Sablan said he has heard from many that they are unhappy with the current administration and having another choice, competition, is good.

"I'm hearing from people who are, for one reason or another, unhappy with the administration and with the Republicans. You have a government that has cronyism, favoritism, corruption some say, and I think that unfortunate. I'm an independent and I'm not saying all Democrats are good candidates, there are good Democrats and there are good Republicans. These are smart, honest people and I think they will be hard working people. I hope the people will consider the Democrats," he said.

Former speaker Herman HR Guerrero, who was there to present certificates, also said it's about time the CNMI changes its government.

"For some time, the Democratic Party, we went into a long vacation but it's about time to change. I'm so happy about our candidates and that they are all certified. I'm particularly happy that we have such credible candidates," he said. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

CUC schedules water service interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for the entire Kagman, San Vicente, and Papago areas on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020 from 8am to 4pm. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon thereafter.

The purpose of the scheduled water interruption is to allow CUC's contractor, Hong Ye Construction, to replace old and deteriorated 6-inch PVC pipes and a 6-inch gate valve on Chacha Road in Kagman for a more reliable water system. This work is part of CUC's Kagman Waterline and Booster Rehabilitation Replacement Project funded by USEPA and the Department of the Interior.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

SAFETY
Starts with "S"
but begins with "You"
a friendly reminder from
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

Have Medicaid Dental Insurance?
- We would love to see you! No long waits, and Walk-ins always welcome. **Kind & Gentle Team!**
- We treat our patients like family. Join us for a cup of coffee today. Best AirCon and free Wi-Fi!
- **Hawaii Dental Service (HDS), StayWell, TakeCare, CIGNA & Calvos insurances also accepted!**

AWARD-WINNING DENTISTS
DR. NELSON KRUM
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE

Paradise Dental Spa
Middle Road, Gualo Rai
234-4040
paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com

ARTISAN GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICH
Buy One, at a regular price
Get the 2nd Artisan Grilled Chicken Sandwich for only
$2.99
*Limited time only

Served with shredded lettuce.
Open for Dine-in, Drive thru and Take out services
Serving you Safely
STORE HOURS: MIDDLE ROAD STORE - 6:00AM TO 9:00PM DAILY • GARAPAN BEACH ROAD - 6:00AM TO 8:30PM DAILY
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

Torres, Esper discuss stronger relationship for CNMI

U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper called Gov. Ralph DLG Torres over the phone on Saturday to convey his commitment to a stronger relationship with the CNMI.

Esper

Torres expressed his gratitude for support from the Department of Defense during the CNMI's past emergencies and disasters, including the COVID-19 pandemic, while also reemphasizing the need for the CNMI and DoD to have a stronger relationship in military discussions.

"The CNMI has been devastated by Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and severely impacted by COVID-19 this year. The Department of Defense was among the top federal partners who assisted us during our typhoon recovery, as well as sending medical workers to assist our hospital in our COVID-19 response. We are very grateful to President Trump, Secretary Esper, USINDOPACOM, Joint Region Marianas, and our men and women in uniform for their support during these unprecedented times," said Torres.

Torres

"As part of the first line of defense with Guam and as proud Americans, the CNMI understands the critical role it plays for our national security. However, we also know that this partnership can be stronger with the CNMI having a stronger voice in military consultations and overall matters relating to our islands and our national security. I thank Secretary Esper for listening to my concerns, as well as his commitment to a stronger partnership between the CNMI and DoD. I look forward to meeting with him in the near future," said Torres.

Secretary Esper, who is in the Pacific to visit Palau, Guam, and Hawaii, discussed fostering a stronger network with the CNMI and the other U.S. territories and Micronesian states for the security of the Asia-Pacific region.

"We appreciate all that the people of the CNMI do for the Department of Defense and the vital role they play in our national security. I look forward to meeting with [Governor Torres] on his next trip to D.C.," said Secretary Esper on his official Twitter account. ***(PR)***

STAR

From Page 1

tor advance bookings and do our best to provide the most optical level of service possible," Christian said.

The Star Marianas Air president can't say for certain as to why the volume has been increasing.

He said overall, demand is down substantially in comparison to last year which is to be expected given the current COVID-19 situation.

"It would seem that CNMI's quarantine protocols requiring all passengers to enter the CNMI through Saipan is containing the spread of COVID-19 and people are becoming more comfortable traveling inter-island," Christian said.

He said there have been several different government organizations, including the 2020 CNMI Census, that have been busy recently on both Tinian and Rota.

Christian said they have also seen an increase in the number of Saipan residents visiting Rota and Tinian for the first time for short local "staycations."

Last April, at the request of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the mayors of Tinian and Rota, Star Marianas temporarily suspended all scheduled inter-island passenger service to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Since resuming scheduled passenger flights to Rota last June, Christian said they have been working to match the amount of service offered to the demand for flights.

He said Star Marianas, like all airlines around the world, has had to make substantial changes to the way they operate in order to control costs and ensure they are as efficient as possible while still meeting the needs of the communities they serve.

"Initially when we resumed limited scheduled operations to Rota in June we started by offering a total of 4 flights per week between Saipan and Rota," the president said.

In response to improving load factors, Star Marianas increased the total scheduled flights between Saipan and Rota to nine flights per week in late June.

Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that Star Marianas added flights after an increase in volume of passengers traveling inter island between Saipan/Rota and Rota/Saipan.

"With the additional flights, it may accommodate the demand of passenger service to and from the islands," Santos said.

However, the senator said it's very important that passengers adhere to social distancing, wearing of masks, and using hand sanitizers for the safety and protection of health of the traveling public.

As to the reasons for the high demand, Santos said she believes it's mostly due to an influx of inter-island travelers from Saipan to Rota and vice versa.

In addition, she said, it may have attributed to an increase of inter-island medical patients referrals after the suspension of Star Marianas inter-island flights last March.

Santos said patients' referrals had to be rescheduled as a result.

EX-ARMY

From Page 2

ing conditions, where social distancing is nearly impossible, it's only a matter of time before other inmates contract COVID-19 at Sheridan Federal Correctional Institution," she said.

Pfifferling asked the court for a reduction of Jucutan's prison sentence to time served and for immediate release, adding that the compassionate release statute allows a court to reduce a sentence for 'extraordinary and compelling reasons.'

Pfifferling said Jucutan's serious health conditions and vulnerability to COVID-19 are extraordinary and compelling reasons warranting such a reduction.

She added that Jucutan has exhausted all his administrative remedies and qualifies for immediate compassionate release.

Jucutan started serving his sentence on July 17, 2019 and with four months reduction for good time, he is scheduled to be released on July 11, 2021.

Jucutan was convicted on the charge of engaging in a scheme to defraud the U.S. government and obtaining money falsely by claiming he referred nominees or potential soldiers to enlist in the Army Reserve through the AR-RAP program and received $2,000 for every nominee that enlisted and went through the training.

Jucutan said he recruited a total of 38 nominees. He signed a sworn affidavit admitting he "stole" the personal information of four nominees, entered their information into the Docupak webpage and received $9,000 for the nominations.

Dokupak runs the AR-RAP program.

On May 26, 2016, a federal jury found Jucutan guilty of four counts of wire fraud and four counts of aggravated identity theft in connection with the scheme to defraud the Army Reserves Recruiter Assistant Program.

DFS

From Page 1

Going from 100 mph to zero involves psyching oneself into doing it and I read books, talked to my family and friends, recent retirees—all of which helped," she said.

"A good friend, Frank Stewart, always said 'don't retire for the sake of retiring, retire to do something.' Great advice given a couple of years ago and so I will be retiring to a new life in Washington with my husband, children, and grandchildren. There will be good friends from Saipan who have made their 'new homes' in the Pacific Northwest and friends we have made in our neighborhood there over the years," she added.

Aldan-Pierce was the very first employee of DFS Saipan and have been there since 1976 even before they had stores. "My career has been blessed by so many people—from the original four owners of DFS, and to one of the four founders, I still keep in touch with Mr. Chuck Feeney, Mr. Bob Miller had always been but an email away and Mr. Picarro who was our president for years molded several junior executives into formidable and humble ones," she said.

"My last boss, Jim Beighley, had so much trust and confidence in me that he basically left me alone to do what I needed to do knowing that I will call when necessary—the ultimate empowerment. Lessons learned from them will forever stay with me," she added.

Among Aldan-Pierce's memorable moments during her journey was being the first woman to be promoted to division president for DFS Worldwide in 1995. She was the only DFS employee who have received the CEO's Lighthouse Award twice under two different CEOs and this was the highest award of distinction at DFS for individuals.

"I have been blessed with so many awards over the years. Outside of DFS, a huge one was winning the Guam Business Executive of the Year in 2000. I was the first executive outside of Guam to have been honored with this and many, many more. The lesson I wish to impart with this is that I never set out to be rewarded with any of them, never lobbied for them—but whatever you do in life, people notice, take note and they make sure your deeds are recognized," she said.

"DFS is a great company that has made a difference in so many people's lives over the years and will continue to do so in the future. The overwhelming response from so many people from all over the world upon reading of my retirement I believe says a lot about the legacy that I leave and hope DFS will continue. The tribute paid to me by Mr. Martin Moodie on his Moodieblog.com and people's reactions to my Facebook posts have been amazing," she added.

Leaving the corporate life does not mean that Aldan-Pierce will also let go of her other passions such as hosting DFS *man'amkos* and other responsibilities such as the sitting chair of the Marianas Visitors Authority and one of the officers of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.

"I will miss the sense of family with the team we have, but over the years I have hosted our DFS *man'amkos* which includes retirees or 'leavers' with whom I remained close to at my house and I plan to continue to do this," she said.

"My term expires with MVA in early Fall 2021 and I will honor that commitment. I will continue as a senior advisor to various ongoing revitalization projects because I have historical knowledge of our industry and so I will still be quite engaged on community matters for a while," she added.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PUA

From Page 1

Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

The PUA and FPUC programs have been in the works since last March 27, and have been slowly distributed since July 17, still 4,730 applicants has yet to be paid, and now face evictions, cars repossessions, overdue loan payments, etc.

Sablan stated in a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres that the U.S. Department of Labor has released $119,770,584, however Sablan is worried about the "slow pace" of the distribution of payments to the applicants who are out of work and are in urgent need of assistance.

"As you might imagine, the congressional office continues to receive numerous requests for help from some of those thousands who are waiting," said Sablan. He added that the people who have been reaching out to him shares that they are "unable" to reach the Commonwealth's Department of Labor by phone.

Sablan added that the people who have been reaching out to him share that they are devastated and desperate for the $945 weekly benefit that U.S. Congress made available in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act last March 27, and last Aug. 27 marks the fifth month since the CARES Act was signed into law.

"This situation is even more difficult to explain, knowing that the CARES Act also provided your government with over $2 million to pay for staff to process the applications and that you have not put all that money to use," said Sablan.

In Sablan's letter to Torres, he pleads that Torres do everything, in his will power, that he can do to get the PUA and FPUC "into the pockets of the thousands of people who qualify and have not yet been paid."

COVID-19

From Page 1

quarantined and were moved to the designated isolation area which is the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

CHCC stated that they have conducted contact tracing for the immediate contacts which include: passengers on the same flight, close family members, and friends.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña also said that the CNMI expects to receive COVID-19 vaccination in January 2021.

Speaking on the weekly radio briefing last Aug. 27, Muña said the vaccine is not ready yet, but she received a call on Thursday morning from the White House task force regarding Operation Warp Speed, a public-private partnership initiated by the federal government "to facilitate and accelerate the development, manufacturing and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines."

Muña stated that they were assured that the vaccine will be "safe and effective" once it is ready for distribution. She added that the target date is January 2021 for the mass vaccination distribution. In preparation, Muña says that the hospital is constantly checking if there is refrigeration and other equipment needed so that once the distribution comes, they [CHCC] is also ready to receive it.

Saipan won't be the only one to receive it, Rota and Tinian will also receive vaccination, Muña added. Also, she wants to remind the community to get their regular flu shots as the flu season is coming.

Warren Villagomez, who heads the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, is asking parents to coordinate with their children's schools regarding the school-based vaccination outreach. Its goal is to bring children up to date with recommended immunizations.

Power interruptions today, Sept. 2 and 3

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on Aug. 31 and Sept. 2 and 3, 2020.

As CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance, there will be scheduled power interruptions to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely replace rusted power pole hardware, deteriorated cross arms and rotted primary poles in the affected areas. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working areas. See additional information below:

Monday, Aug. 31, 2020—from 9am to 1pm.

- Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Feeder 7 Circuit
- Project location: Tanapag Mobil Gas Station (main road) going north
- Power service area(s) affected: Tanapag (areas north of the Tanapag Mobil Gas
- Station), Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi
- Water well(s) affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag
- Wastewater lift station(s) affected: SR-1, SR-2, and SR-3

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020—from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

- Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Kiya 1 Circuit
- Project location: Chalan Tun Herman Pan in Airport Road Dandan
- Power service area(s) affected: Chalan Tun Herman Pan (Saagh Pl.) in Airport
- Road Dandan
- Water well(s) affected: None
- Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020—from 9am to 1pm.

- Outage type: Sectionalized outage on Feeder 4 Circuit
- Project location: Papago Isa Dr. (near the Papago 1.0 MG tank & near the
- Botanical Garden)
- Power service area(s) affected:
  - ❑ A momentary outage to remove jumpers (about 15 mins. to 20 mins.): San Vicente Isa [Drive north of P& Y Rental Apartments to Papago Isa Drive (Botanical Garden)]
  - ❑ Outage Time: 9am-1pm- Papago Isa Drive (Botanical Garden to Kagman Mobil Gas Station)

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CornmomvealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Man arrested for criminal mischief at sports bar

Last Aug. 20 at about 9:49pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a criminal mischief incident at a sports bar located in the village of Garapan. Police were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, officers noticed a group of people gathered near the Paris Croissant bakery. As police approached the group of individuals they noticed two individuals restraining another.

Police quickly learned that the individual being restrained had just thrown an object toward the window of the Godfather's Bar before fleeing the scene. The owner of the bar and a bystander heard the sound of glass shatter and noticed an individual running away from the scene. Both individuals managed to catch the individual and restrain the suspect until police arrived.

At about 9:59pm, Matthew Geisel was placed under arrest for criminal mischief and was brought to Kanoa Resort for clearance before being transported to the Department of Corrections to be booked and processed. ***(PR)***

20 International 19 Coastal Clean up cnmi

1,617 volunteers participated

9,427 lbs. of trash collected

76 locations cleaned

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 19 Saturday

Harnessing the Power of People to Fight Ocean Pollution

Locally led by the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is the world's largest single-day cleanup event with the goal of collecting and documenting trash littering our coastlines and waterways. Volunteers from states and territories throughout the U.S. and over 100 countries worldwide come together every year and participate in the cleanup event near them. The two layers of science and community service is what distinguishes the ICC from everyday cleanups. The data collected during the ICC is entered into Ocean Conservancy's Global Trash Database and is crucial to solving the world's ocean pollution problem.

35th International Coastal Cleanup 2020 CNMI

Participants will adopt a location (beach, community area, or roadside) and are asked to tally data while collecting debris. Supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and data sheets, can be provided upon request. Trash hauling and disposal will be taken care of by DCRM, with assistance from the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA).

We would like to remind the public to practice proper social distancing and hand hygiene while participating in this year's cleanup event. Although DCRM is unable to provide face masks, we would like to encourage all participants to take precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers.

SIGN UP TODAY AT www.dcrm.gov.mp

mina Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance

Scan this QR code to go directly to DCRM's website!

Scan me

For more information, contact the ICC Coordinator: **Colleen Flores** at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp or (670) 664-8300 / 8316

Torres thanks Trump admin for heeding request to modify USCIS policy

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last week expressed his appreciation to President Donald J. Trump and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for modifying policies at his request regarding the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) visa program to protect the CNMI economy and workers.

USCIS announced on Wednesday that they will only apply the 30-day temporary departure (also known as touchback) requirement on CW-1 petitions approved on or after June 18, 2020.

Torres first raised concern over the consequences the touchback requirement will cause to the CNMI economy almost immediately after its enactment into law in 2018. In his 2019 testimony before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee, Torres stated to the members of the Senate, "We must think of the practical application of requiring half of the current labor force to return to their countries of origin every two years while the economy sits and waits for the months of renewal processing. And we should closely monitor the implementation of these new provisions, so they do not undermine the economy and US jobs we worked so hard to build and protect."

In early 2020, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios testified before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee and brought to light the impending implementation of the provision by stating, "At this time of severe financial difficulties, a dramatic reduction in the size of the labor force will compound our mounting challenges into a potential collapse of our economy."

Torres

In a June 10, 2020 letter to USCIS, Torres outlined how the temporary departure requirement at the expiration of the second renewal period for a CW-1 worker would set back the CNMI economy, negatively affect U.S. workers, and endanger the livelihood of CW workers and their children.

"In any other circumstance, this impact to the labor force would be significant and warrant reconsideration. In the present scenario, with the unprecedented harm brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be devastating," wrote Torres in his letter to USCIS.

"Already, businesses across the Commonwealth are closing their doors, never to reopen. The businesses that remain will have to contend with diminished demand and an outlook more uncertain than any other time in recent history. To add to these difficulties, their trained workforce will be required to depart for an indeterminate amount of time during a period in which government services will rely upon at least a partial resumption of economic activity," the governor said.

In his letter, Torres reemphasized his commitment to ensure that the future labor force of the CNMI is comprised of skilled and competent local workers, but added that the original USCIS policy would lead to more business closures, a reduction in CW fees to train local U.S. workers, and negatively affect the CNMI's healthcare system.

"The increased costs of retaining existing employees will result in further business closures as it will compound the effects existing from the COVID-19 pandemic. The decrease in private sector activities will impact employment opportunities for U.S. workers, especially those who have been furloughed from government employment. What is likely, will be a mass outward migration of our local labor force to neighboring Guam or the U.S. mainland. This is what we lived through in the advent of U.S. Public Law 110-229 and has severely impacted our present-day ability to make sizable gains in the domestic workforce population," said Torres.

"An impact of this magnitude, coupled with the diminished demand present in today's economy, will reduce the number of petitions for the CW-1 permit this Fiscal Year. While counter-intuitive, this is harmful because as the CNMI government restructures and other commercial enterprises close, there will be a need for workforce retraining to transition out-of-work domestic employees. It is important to note that the only resources the CNMI receives to directly assist in the transition period originates from CW-1 petition fees. This provision, the impact it will have on commercial activity, and the decrease in labor demand through the program will reduce the resources the CNMI relies upon to train U.S. workers. Without additional resources, these U.S. workers will be greatly impacted and the CNMI's progress toward transition will be severely stunted," he added.

Palacios

Torres said in his letter that the temporary departure requirement would come at a bad time when the CNMI is battling COVID-19.

"The temporary departure requirement comes at a time when the CNMI healthcare system can least afford a loss in labor force. In recent communications with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the CNMI's sole hospital, the Temporary Departure Requirement will affect 54 critical healthcare workers including Registered Nurses, and Clinical Laboratory Scientists. With the global pandemic still impacting health care systems around the world, the isolated and already diminished healthcare system of the CNMI will suffer greatly in the loss of these workers during their departure period," he said.

As a result of Torres' request, USCIS said in their press release that they will implement the temporary departure requirement in a manner that best protects the interests of CW-1 employers and workers who may be affected by potential travel disruptions and delays beyond their control. This change also minimizes the likely negative impact on other U.S. businesses and prevents further damage to the CNMI economy.

"We have been consistent and proactive in our message that this provision will harm our community in truly profound ways. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us in many ways. While we continue to remain one of the safest places in the world because of our proactive measures to protect our islands, our economy has taken an unprecedented hit. Protecting our economy, our businesses, and most especially our local U.S. and CW workers and their families are important to me as we plan our economic recovery together as a community," he said.

"I thank Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan for lending an ear to the concerns the CNMI brought to Congress on this provision of U.S. law and for working with my administration to advocate for this momentary change and the eventual amendment to the law that authorized it, and a great level of appreciation must be given to our private sector partners, and the Northern Mariana Business Alliance Corporation for the advocacy and support of xour economy."

"We are Marianas strong when we look out for one another and support each other. From protecting the health of our *man'amko* to protecting our businesses to protecting workers and their families, every person who calls these islands home is important to me, and Lt. Gov. Palacios and I will continue to safeguard our people from any challenge that comes our way," said Torres. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Sixteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. via teleconference on google hangouts at meet.google.com/xix-ised-hor.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoptioon of Minutes
   a. July 28, 2020 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair's Report
2. Committee Report
   a. ISA Committee
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. FY 2020-2021 Budget
2. School Year 2020-2021 Opening and COVID Guidelines
3. School Re-Zoning
4. Head start COVID-19 Carry over grant
5. Head Start Supplemental HI-OP Carry over grant
6. Early Head Start COVID-19 Carry over grant
7. Certification & Licensure Matters
   a. CLO Report No. 2020-16-004

VI. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

US NBG to return to three inbound lanes at front gate

SANTA RITA, Guam— Effective today, Aug. 31, the U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG)-Main Base front gate traffic pattern will change during the morning hours.

There will be three inbound lanes and one outbound lane at the front gate Monday through Friday from 6am to 8am. The back gate will remain open for inbound traffic only Monday through Friday from 6am to 8:30am.

Improving base access in support of improved military readiness, and ensuring the safety and security of military and civilian personnel remains a top priority.

As NBG implements this new traffic flow at the entry control point (ECP), all drivers accessing NBG installations are reminded to pay attention to the traffic pattern and posted signs, follow Security's directions, stop at the Security sentry's position, and proceed only when cleared by the sentry.

Patrons are further reminded to 1.) Have their ID readily available and extend it outside their window to be scanned, 2.) Put their face covering on and take their sunglasses off prior to arriving at the ECP, 3.) Roll down their vehicle's back window, and 4.) Be ready to answer questions about their wellness.

All patrons are advised to plan accordingly and to monitor NBG social media for updates. ***(PR)***

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

4.9-magnitude temblor in Marianas

At 3:31pm Wednesday, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred at 21.651°N 143.047°E in the Marianas Region. Currently, there are no tsunami advisories or warnings that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.7-magnitude earthquake on Saipan

At 5:31pm Thursday, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred 263 km NE of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami advisories or warnings that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

TO US TERRITORIES AND FAS

Trump Administration awards $4.5M in MAP grants

WASHINGTON—The Trump Administration announced $4,516,535 in fiscal year 2020 grant funding provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) to support the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This MAP funding will also support the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau.

"The Secretary and I are pleased to provide this funding support for training, equipment, and maintenance across the insular areas," said Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. "The improvements provided through these funds for facilities maintenance at various water and power utilities, public works departments, public parks, police department motor pools, and emergency services will greatly benefit the public."

Fiscal year 2020 Maintenance Assistance Program grant funding totaling $4,516,535 will be provided to support the U.S. territories and freely associated states for the following projects as detailed below:

American Samoa

■ American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) - $383,500 will be used to re-roof the existing auto shop and make expansions to include extra bays and shelter for ASPA fleet and heavy equipment. Funds will also be used to provide training of mechanics and purchase specialized power tools, jacks, vehicle lifts, and a caterpillar diagnostic scanner.

■ American Samoa Department of Public Works - $329,625 will be used to support an ongoing Trades Apprenticeship collaboration with the American Samoa Community College and replace aged ceiling fans in school and administrative buildings across the public-school system. Funds will also be used to upgrade and replenish the maintenance division's tool inventory.

CNMI

■ CNMI Department of Public Works (DPW) - $492,652 will be used procure a vacuum truck to service Saipan's storm-water drainage systems and to assist in runoff and flood control during storms. The truck is an important part of DPW's overall Storm-Water Sanitation System Project.

■ CNMI Department of Public Lands - $220,652 will be used to install railing along the Managaha Pier to ensure the safety of visitors who arrive at the Managaha Pier for entry to visit Managaha.

■ Rota Municipality Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services - $156,815 will be used to acquire a Skeeter Step-Side Brush Truck and a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Funding will also support purchase of fuel, tools, and equipment.

■ Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) - $135,000 will be used to fund CUC staff to attend a Certified Employee Water and Wastewater Training Program, required to meet local and federal regulatory certification guidelines for handling water and wastewater treatment or distribution activities.

Guam

■ Guam Department of Public Works (DPW) - $370,000 will be used to purchase specialized equipment necessary for the DPW's Highway Infrastructure Maintenance Program.

■ Port Authority of Guam - $240,325 will be used to procure roll-up doors, a stud welding system, and a multi-operator welding rack for the welding shop at the Port Authority.

■ Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) - $117,000 will be used to 1) provide field training and fund an evaluation of the Wastewater Collections Division, 2) purchase a utility task vehicle, and 3) purchase GPS equipment.

■ University of Guam (UOG) - $105,010 will be used for the "Road to Excellence Facility Maintenance Project" at the University. This project aims to remediate existing training practices and the culture of facility management at the UOG.

US Virgin Islands

■ Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority (VI-WMA) - $535,000 is to be used for the acquisition of two closed circuit TV camera trucks and to provide staff with technical training.

■ Water and Power Authority (WAPA) - $215,000 will be used to develop a comprehensive in-house electric transmission and distribution (T&D) training program, with specialized skills development, for T&D power linesmen.

■ Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD) - $85,830 will be used to purchase specialized equipment and tools for the VIPD Motor Pool Division, as well as installation and training.

■ Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation (DSPR) - $59,250 will be used to help the DSPR purchase a garbage truck for use in garbage pick-up at local parks and public facilities.

Federated States of Micronesia

■ Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) - $245,000 will be used to acquire 1) a paint stripper necessary for efficient removal and painting of airport runway markings, 2) a tractor mower to help keep the landing areas clear of overgrowth, and 3) a boom lifter to support miscellaneous maintenance services at the Pohnpei International Airport. All equipment will help the Pohnpei Port Authority to maintain the airport following Federal Aviation Administration and international requirements.

■ Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC) - $56,000 will be used to help develop an in-house training program for 30 water and wastewater operators in Yap State to fill a critical need for qualified personnel in water and wastewater management. Professional training provided to the YSPSC will strengthen water treatment and water distribution services and have important public health consequences. This will be a three-year program.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

■ Majuro Water and Sewer Company - $211,000 will be used to acquire a waste vacuum truck with tank, pump, and necessary equipment for collecting sewage from over 1800 homes west of the bridge on Majuro that are not connected to Majuro central sewage collection and treatment network. The truck will also be used to support sewage pumping necessary during power outages, and in case of any hazardous material spill occurrence on Majuro. Funds will also cover proper personal protective equipment to safeguard employees who are handling sewage and other hazardous materials, as well as heavy duty tools for heavy equipment repair.

Republic of Palau

■ Palau Bureau of Public Works - $312,826 will be used to strengthen and develop new and existing water infrastructure for over 200 Palau residents in Palau's outlying southern states of Angaur, Hatohobei, and Sonsorol. The residents of these three states, which include the islands of Pulo Anna, Tobi, and Helen's Reef, depend on either groundwater supply and/or existing rainfall roof catchment systems where the quantity and quality of available water can be unreliable and heavily impacted by extreme weather conditions such as drought, or other events related to tides and sea levels.

All insular areas

■ Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC) – $246,050 will be used to support the Pacific Linemen Training Program, which will provide 30 weeks of powerline operation and maintenance certification training to at least 95 power linemen from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The program helps insular area power utilities maintain skilled technicians to a U.S.-level standard through a curriculum that is tailored to fit the conditions, cultures, languages, and education level of the linemen, as well as meet each island utility's needs.

The OIA Maintenance Assistance Program is made available each year by Congress to support maintenance priorities in the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. For more information on grant assistance provided through OIA, please visit: https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, @ASIIADomenech, and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Follow and "like" OIA on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/InsularAffairs. ***(PR)***

Survey underway to help understand quality of experiences at coastal sites

Lynker Technologies' Sustainable Pacific Program is seeking to learn from Saipan residents about their past and current use of eight sites around the island: Mañagaha Island; the Grotto; Obyan Beach; Lao Lao Bay; Ladder Beach; Hidden Beach; Micro Beach; and Pau Pau Beach. Our survey asks for residents' thoughts about crowding, environmental conditions, and recreational experiences at these sites.

We have been conducting this survey since early 2020 and several hundred residents have already taken the survey. Thank you! But, we want to hear from as many Saipan residents as possible before the project ends in a few months. If you would like to contribute your opinion, you can access the online survey at: http://tiny.cc/e22psz If you have any questions or would like to take the survey via mail or over the phone, please contact Christopher Hawkins at chawkins@lynkertech.com or our Saipan-based project manager, Becky Skeele at becky@koaconsulting.com for more information.

This project is funded through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program. The federal government is not involved in the development, implementation, or analysis of the survey. Lynker's creative and highly-flexible Sustainable Pacific Program was created to help non-profits and local governments in the Pacific Islands, West Coast, and Alaska involved in important ocean, coastal, fisheries, and other environmental work. Visit us and learn more about what we do at www.Lynker.com. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC RFP 2020-010
AMENDMENT NO.1

AMENDED: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: ~~September 3, 2020~~ September 15, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES

Project package will be available on August 03, 2020, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement" tab.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Proposal conference will be held via video teleconferencing on August 19, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Proposers will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net "Procurement" tab. We request from bidders to submit a notice via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net of their intent to participate in the mandatory pre-bid conference at least one (1) day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-proposal conference will be considered a non-responsive proposer.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Vinney Atalig-Hocog
Chairman,
NMHC Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Wednesday, September 02, 2020 at 8:30a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairman's Report
- 2020 NCEES Virtual Annual Meeting
- Letter from F. Guerrero

VII. Director's Report
- Quarterly Financial Report

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
- AG Legal Opinion

XII. New Business
XIII. Applications for Board's Review
XIV. Miscellaneous Business
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 172
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump promises more of the same in a second term–and that's frightening

In accepting the Republican nomination for a second term as president, Donald Trump sounded lofty themes of national unity and love for country while also offering a glowing and highly exaggerated account of his stewardship. He claimed, for example, that he had done more for African Americans than any president since Abraham Lincoln and promised to produce a coronavirus vaccine "before the end of the year or maybe even sooner."

He also made characteristically reckless attacks on his Democratic opponent, suggesting that the election of Joe Biden would threaten the American way of life. "Despite all of our greatness as a nation, everything we have achieved is now endangered," Trump ominously warned. "This election will decide whether we save the American dream, or whether we allow a socialist agenda to demolish our cherished destiny … Your vote will decide whether we protect law-abiding Americans, or whether we give free rein to violent anarchists, agitators and criminals who threaten our citizens."

His broadside against Biden was a reminder of how this president has trafficked in demagoguery and distortion throughout his time in office. It also undermined attempts by his party during its virtual convention to project a more optimistic and inclusive message that might peel away enough voters to secure the president's reelection.

That sort of fear-mongering was a central theme of Trump's speech Thursday, and it echoed a recurring convention motif that a Democratic victory in November would bring about a dystopian nightmare of socialism, unchecked rioting and liberal thought police. The protests sparked by the deaths of George Floyd and other Black Americans at the hands of police were another recurring theme — not because of the issues they raised, but because of the violence they have at times unleashed. For Trump and his allies, the issue isn't just law and order, it's the fear of a cultural reckoning.

The convention's culture warriors included Mark and Patricia McCloskey, a white couple from St. Louis who pointed firearms at protesters marching past their home and face charges of felony unlawful use of a weapon. Echoing Trump's racially freighted rhetoric, Patricia McCloskey warned on Monday that Democrats would "bring crime, lawlessness and low-quality apartments into thriving suburban neighborhoods." She added: "No matter where you live, your family will not be safe in the radical Democrats' America."

The speakers' hyperbolic warnings occasionally bore some relationship to actual events. Some cities are, in fact, riven by violent protests. But the proceedings often felt like a festival of falsehoods and exaggerations — not just about Democratic nominee Joe Biden, but also about the president's character and record. The speakers largely ignored the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (no masks in sight!), the millions of jobless Americans and Trump's lack of a second-term agenda; instead, they sought to distract from his abrasive, blame-shifting and often inept leadership by declaring him a strong president who cares deeply about

See TRUMP on Next Page

The NBA realizes racism is bad for business

By STEPHEN L. CARTER
Bloomberg Opinion

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Yale University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. His novels include "The Emperor of Ocean Park," and his latest nonfiction book is "Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster."

National Basketball Association players who briefly staged a work stoppage in the wake of the shooting of Jacob Blake have decided to play their games after all. The threat to the truncated baseball season is also over. And herein lies a tale about sports and the limits of protest.

The courts where the NBA is staging its contests have "Black Lives Matter" emblazoned on them. Critics complain, on the other hand, that although players and team officials are permitted and even encouraged to speak up about racial injustice at home, the league won't allow them to criticize the government of China, a country from which the NBA earns billions in revenue. Assume that the charge is true. It's not hypocrisy. It's just business. It's also evidence that when it comes to political protests in professional sports, the players get the publicity but the owners are in charge.

Some conservatives angrily charge that the NBA owners are trying to show how "woke" they are, but that's an oversimplification. Like other corporate entities, the teams have First Amendment rights, and as they read the shifting political winds, they're trying to position themselves to maximize profit. They see no gain in antagonizing Beijing; and they see little loss in siding with Black Lives Matter.

This era is like every other. Protests in sports succeed when the leagues and owners support them. Otherwise … not so much.

Case in point: In January of 1959, the Minneapolis Lakers arrived in Charleston, West Virginia, to play a basketball game against the Cincinnati Royals. But the hotel where the Lakers were staying refused to give a room to superstar Elgin Baylor because he was Black. (A white teammate is said to have scolded the desk clerk: "This man is more successful than you, and makes a lot more money than you ever will!") Later that evening, Baylor and the team's two other Black players found that no local restaurant would seat them. Having had enough, Baylor refused to play. Tickets had been sold on the promise of his presence on the court. Instead he sat on the bench in street clothes. Sportswriters were angry. Local business leaders complained. The league considered handing down discipline, then backed off after the team's owner supported his star.

The following year, a football player named Art Powell, a member of the Philadelphia Eagles, refused to play in a preseason game in Norfolk, Virginia, after learning that he could not stay at the team hotel because he was Black. Powell wasn't a star. He'd been in professional sports for all of one season. The team didn't support him. It released him. The protest has largely been forgotten. (At this writing, it's not mentioned in Powell's Wikipedia entry.)

A few years later, now a member of the Oakland Raiders, Powell was one of several Black players who threatened to boycott a preseason game in Mobile, Alabama, because stadium seating was segregated. When the venue wouldn't budge — "We don't want four boys from Oakland telling us how to run our stadium," stadium management said — the league arranged for the game to be moved elsewhere.

Maybe the owners were sympathetic to civil rights. But it's also true that by 1963, when the controversy over Mobile arose, the issue of racial equality had become more salient, and it was clear as crystal which argument was in the descendant. It was important that the owners of professional sports franchises, whatever their private views, wind up on the winning side.

Just a year earlier, the Washington football team had been informed by the Department of the Interior that unless they added Black players to the league's last remaining lily-White roster, they would no longer be welcome at the government-owned D.C. Stadium. The majority owner at the time was the venerable racist George Preston Marshall, who was determined never to integrate his team. But Marshall was a businessman. He saw the writing on the wall. Segregation was no longer profitable. He caved.

Not that things were always so clear. Consider some of the early Black players in major league baseball, long before the Brooklyn Dodgers signed Jackie Robinson: Vincent Nava in the 1880s, George Treadway in the 1890s, Charles Grant at the dawn of the 20th century. Owners hired them to help their teams would win more games, then tried to pass each as an acceptable ethnicity: Nava as Hispanic, Treadway as American Indian or perhaps White, and Grant as White. Each was soon outed as Black, and abandoned by his team. The issue of race was salient indeed, but the winds were blowing in a different direction.

We could argue for a right of protest that is independent of the views of the league. But there's a catch. If we're going to respect protest rights, let's respect them across the board. The social media attacks on the NBA's Jonathan Isaac for refusing to kneel during the National Anthem are wrong-headed, to say the least. In 2017, two high school football referees, upset that players were kneeling, walked off the field. "They've got the right to protest and so do we," said one. After being disciplined for their walkout—even high school leagues know who butters their bread!— the refs wound up quitting.

To respond that the pair got what they deserved is to endorse the position of the National Football League owners accused of refusing to hire Colin Kaepernick after he began kneeling four years ago. They, too, were surely trying to maximize profit by outguessing the political winds. They just got the direction wrong.

Trump's vision to remember—and words to forget

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*

President Donald Trump stood atop the long winding staircase of the public housing facility where he lives. He is all about vision. And Thursday night, he was beaming at the politically picture-perfect scene he saw spread across his South Lawn:

1,500 people, sitting virtually cheek-to-cheek in white government chairs jammed close so it all looked great on TV. It also sounded great, as the mics clearly picked up the crowd's chanting "Four more years!" by virtue of the fact that very few voices were muffled by masks.

It looked like Tulsa-on-the-Potomac. Trump saw it as a Mission Accomplished. Because as we watched on TV, there was nothing visible or audible that reminded us that we all are still imperiled by the still-uncontrolled killer COVID-19. Unlike all the other developed nations that minimized the pandemic's peril long ago.

Covering the news moment the same way you did (via TV), I had one advantage. I had an early draft of Trump's prepared speech (I'd found it online). So I knew Trump was about to give us his hardline assessment of the tragic non-COVID crisis we are now facing. And I especially awaited him to utter this confident pledge that he would swiftly end this racially shattering crisis that is tearing us apart:

"Our Convention occurs at a moment of crisis for our nation. The attacks on our police, and the terrorism in our cities, threaten our very way of life. Any politician who does not grasp this danger is not fit to lead our country.

"Americans watching this address tonight have seen the recent images of violence in our streets and the chaos in our communities. Many have witnessed this violence personally, some have even been its victims.

"I have a message for all of you: the crime and violence that today afflicts our nation will soon come to an end. … The most basic duty of government is to defend the lives of its own citizens. Any government that fails to do so is a government unworthy to lead –"

OH NO! Boy is my face red! It turns out the words I just quoted for you actually weren't from Trump's Thursday night Republican National Convention acceptance speech, after all. They were from the convention speech Trump gave four years ago. My journalistically experienced eye discovered the goof when I saw (and analyzed in depth) this sentence: "Beginning on January 20th 2017, safety will be restored."

So here we are, still struggling with the same unsolved and tragically enflamed crisis Trump glibly pledged he'd end four years ago.

As we think about all that seems to go so wrong during Trump's presidency, we realize that whether it is flailing and failing against COVID-19 or enflaming and ignoring racial strife, there is one central flaw that is the core of Trump's leadership failures. It happens in business and politics. He is always all about name-calling and confrontation. He is incapable of helping by healing. He is not wired in a way that is capable of bringing us together. Not even in crises such as this clash in which the world has seen a policeman shooting seven times, at close range, at the back of a Black American who was not brandishing a weapon.

We have seen the repetitive pattern often enough to know it can and must be resolved by top-down leadership. And frankly, that is also the leadership failure that has prevented the United States from shutting down, distancing and defeating (or at least decisively minimizing) COVID-19.

Consider Trump's vision of governing to control COVID-19. He basically doesn't have one. In a crunch, Trump has been shamefully willing to convince and even con his most trusting true believers to expose themselves to this mass-killer pandemic by amassing at rallies, workplaces, everywhere. Why? Just so it will look like the virus has been conquered. And so he can claim he won. Never mind that he has become a mass enabler and mass infector.

Here's the big picture: It's become fashionable these days for my talking-head fellow pundits to opine about whether what they glibly call "Trumpism" will survive even if the grand old party of Republicanism doesn't.

Trump has shown no consistent embrace or implementation of any governing principles or philosophies such as conservativism, liberalism, socialism, communism, libertarianism. And what political scientists call populism actually comes down to, in Trump's World, just his name-calling and attack-politics. No overarching conceptual issues; he just became the first incumbent president to order his party to dispense with its platform altogether.

So "Trumpism" fails its one question, pass/fail test: There isn't an "ism" if there is no is. Trump's vision of leadership and governance extends no further than what he sees in his bathroom mirror. Trump's vision is an "ism" trumped.

'Collusion' dispute is a distraction in Russia election probe

By MICHAEL SMOLENS
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Campaign aides for Donald Trump met with Russian operatives, shared information with them and collaborated with them in an effort to get Trump elected president of the United States.

This has been pretty clear from early on, and the report released last week by the Republican-led Senate Intelligence Committee should convince even the strongest skeptics.

There should be no dispute about the severity of what happened, but semantics and partisan disagreement over the culpability of Trump and his campaign got in the way.

The discussion needs a dose of common sense. Trump family members and campaign advisers worked with people tied to the Kremlin—including an intelligence officer, we now know — to defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

It's that simple.

That seemed obvious in July 2017, when it was revealed that Donald Trump Jr., Trump son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner and campaign manager Paul Manafort met with a Russian attorney with ties to the Kremlin with the prospect of obtaining dirt on Clinton.

Special counsel Robert Muller apparently decided there wasn't enough evidence to bring criminal charges related to that session in the Trump Tower.

Regardless, that meeting and other activities eventually exposed efforts by the campaign to engage with a foreign entity seeking to interfere in the U.S. presidential campaign. It would seem that would trigger more major consequences than we have seen so far. Maybe smoking guns aren't what they used to be.

There have been many. The Senate committee report delineates a fair amount of what was already known, but added crucial new information.

Before this all fades into the next political controversy, here's a recap of developments uncovered through the various investigations:

■ Manafort shared polling data and internal campaign strategy with Konstantin Kilimnik, who had been suspected of being a Russian spy. The Senate Intelligence Committee report confirmed that he was.

■ Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen told investigators that Trump adviser Roger Stone informed Trump that WikiLeaks would be releasing damaging information about Democrats before Russia began releasing pilfered Democratic emails through WikiLeaks. In written testimony to prosecutors, Trump said he couldn't recall talking to Stone about WikiLeaks. The Senate committee report says he did.

■ The Trump campaign "publicly undermined" the U.S. intelligence community's conclusion that Russia was behind the email hack and "was indifferent to whether it and WikiLeaks were furthering a Russian election interference effort," according to the Senate committee report.

■ Russia President Vladimir Putin ordered the hacking of Democratic emails.

■ Russian operatives popped champagne after Trump won and said, "We made America great."

The above Trump aides and advisers, along with others, have been convicted or pleaded guilty to various crimes related to the Russia investigation.

The committee report described Manafort as a "grave counterintelligence threat." It's worth emphasizing that this was the head of the campaign for the current president.

Less serious foreign skulduggery and even accusations with little or no evidence have ruined the careers of politicians, diplomats and government officials. Yet Trump still stands a decent chance of winning reelection in November.

Give Trump credit for shaping the narrative to either diminish his campaign's involvement in the Russia interference, or simply dismiss the investigations as a hoax. Attorney General William Barr played a key role by issuing a summary of the Mueller report downplaying its conclusions before the document was released.

Mueller, among others, objected to how Barr framed the report.

Barr is conducting a probe into the Russia investigation, which he said as recently as April was launched "without basis," despite continuing revelations of Russian election interference. He further said the investigation was designed to "sabotage the presidency."

The inspector general of Barr's own Department of Justice said the investigation was justified and conducted without bias.

Whatever Barr's investigation comes up with, if it attempts to undermine the Russia investigation, it will have to knock down the bipartisan report from the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The committee pointed to some bad conduct by the FBI in the investigation, most notably its handling of the disputed Steele dossier containing research by Trump opponents. The Senate investigation did not rely on the Steele document.

In any event, the Trump campaign's once-secret connections to the Russian election interference effort hasn't shaken his political base, though it seems as if nothing could.

It's easy to forget the "Access Hollywood" tape, in which Trump brags about groping women, seemed certain to kill his 2016 presidential bid.

Maybe Americans, to varying degrees, have become inured to Trump normalizing the outrageous.

Russian election interference on Trump's behalf is continuing to this day, according to the president's own intelligence agencies, which also say China and Iran are opposing Trump.

His apparent lack of concern about the Russian activity, along with a string of policies that have swung in Russia's favor, have raised the question about whether the occupant of the Oval Office is not only a national security threat, but a Russian asset, wittingly or not.

That's not something out of a fantastical espionage novel, but in essays and opinion pieces from some serious people with credentials in national security and intelligence. That it's even being discussed is otherworldly.

But that's where the Trump campaign dealings with Russian operatives have brought us.

The facts of the Russian interference can be examined, as they have here, without the ubiquitous term "collusion." That word is often used in a legal context, but collusion itself is not a crime. In a broader sense, it has become a semantical and political threshold of whether what happened is acceptable or not.

It shouldn't be.

There's sharp partisan disagreement over whether collusion occurred. But there's little disagreement over the facts, which have pushed the word toward irrelevance regarding the Russia probes. The term should be taken off the table.

Before that happens, let's give the definition of collusion the final word: "secret agreement or cooperation especially for an illegal or deceitful purpose."

*Michael Smolens is a columnist for T*he San Diego Union-Tribune.

TRUMP

From Page 8

all Americans and who can single-handedly restore the economy to record-setting heights.

That reality-challenged rhetoric reflected the personality cult that is the Trump presidency as well as today's GOP. The party didn't even bother to adopt a new platform, which would have required getting Republican leaders across the country to agree on principles and a plan for the next four years. Instead, it referred voters to its 2016 version while saying that it "will continue to enthusiastically support the president's America first agenda."

The convention also reflected Trump's proclivity for blurring the distinction between his political interests and those of the nation, a blind spot that led to his impeachment after he attempted to have Ukraine, a nation desperately dependent on aid from the United States, to investigate Biden. It wasn't just that Trump used the White House as a backdrop for his acceptance speech. A naturalization ceremony for new citizens was woven into the convention's partisan programming, and Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo addressed the convention from Jerusalem, despite the tradition that the nation's top diplomat should abstain from partisan political activities.

Yet the GOP also tried to project a more optimistic and inclusive message, one that might induce a requisite number of voters — including suburban women troubled by Trump's callousness and casual bigotry—to vote for the president without too many pangs of conscience. Numerous speakers of color were featured over the four days, along with multiple individuals testifying to Trump's concern for them as small-business people or individuals forgotten by Washington. First lady Melania Trump acknowledged the hardships suffered by many Americans this year and reminded the audience that "we are all one community, comprised of many races, religions and ethnicities."

It's doubtful how successful these kinder, gentler themes would have been in obscuring Trump's actual record of demagoguery, dishonesty and divisiveness. But the president's unfair attacks on his opponent made it clear what another Trump term would be like: More of the same, in terms of both belligerent policy and caustic bluster. He is what he is.

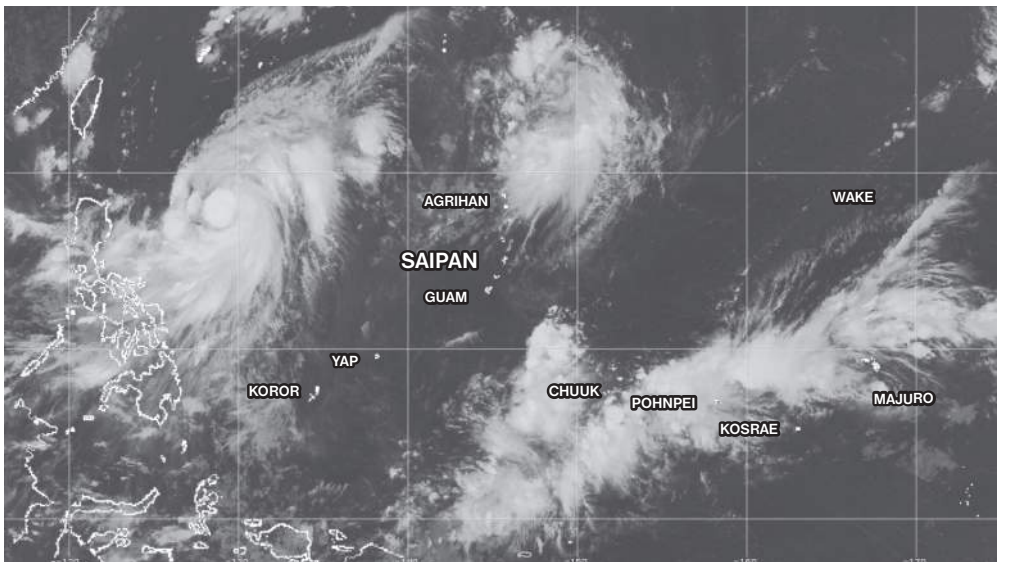
©2020 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 76°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:40 PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite shows no showers within the Marianas waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet composed mainly of west swell with a bit of east swell mixed in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:05 AM	5:19 PM
Tuesday	-	4:59 AM	6:03 PM
Wednesday	-	5:50 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	-	6:40 AM	7:20 PM
Friday	-	7:27 AM	7:56 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
London	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 76°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 41°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°
Osaka	Showers	91° / 79°
Paris	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
Rome	Thunderstorms	86° / 70°
Salem	Cloudy	83° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 55°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 59°
Tokyo	Cloudy	79° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:42 AM	LOW TIDE	1.18
5:35 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
12:48 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.04
7:44 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

Honda to pay $85M in Takata airbag settlement

AP
This June 25, 2017 file photo shows TK Holdings Inc. headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich. Subaru, Tesla, BMW, Volkswagen, Daimler Vans, Mercedes and Ferrari are recalling about 1.7 million vehicles to replace potentially deadly air bag inflators made by Takata Corp. of Japan, Friday, Feb. 8, 2019. The inflators can hurl shrapnel into drivers and passengers.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan announced last week a more than $85-million multistate settlement with American Honda Motor Co., Inc. and Honda of America Mfg., Inc. (collectively "Honda"), over allegations Honda concealed safety issues related to defects in the frontal airbag systems installed in certain Honda and Acura vehicles sold in the United States. The systems were designed and manufactured by Takata Corp., a long-time Honda supplier, and were first installed in Honda vehicles in the 2001 model year.

The settlement, reached between the attorneys general of 48 states, territories, and the District of Columbia and Honda, concludes a multistate investigation into Honda's alleged failure to inform regulators and consumers that the frontal airbags posed a significant risk of rupture, which could cause metal fragments to fly into the passenger compartments of many Honda and Acura vehicles. The ruptures have resulted in at least 14 deaths and over 200 injuries in the United States alone.

"Because Honda Motors failed to inform the public of airbag system defects in its fleet of vehicles sold to millions of consumers, a hefty settlement is now the result of negligence on the automaker," states Manibusan. He continues, "This lawsuit should serve as a warning to other auto companies who deceive consumers for profit gain over consumer safety."

The states have alleged that Honda engineers suspected that the airbags' propellant, ammonium nitrate, could burn aggressively and cause the inflator to burst. Despite these concerns, Honda delayed warning consumers or automobile safety officials, even as it began partial recalls of affected vehicles in 2008 and 2009. Further, Honda continued to represent to consumers that its vehicles, including its airbags, were safe. Since 2008, Honda has recalled approximately 12.9 million Honda and Acura vehicles equipped with the suspect inflators.

The states have alleged that Honda's actions, or perhaps more accurately its failures to act, as well as its misrepresentations about the safety of its vehicles, were unfair and deceptive, and that Honda's conduct violated state consumer protection laws, including the CNMI's Consumer Protection Act.

Under the terms of the consent judgment, which will be filed with the Superior Court in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Honda has agreed to strong injunctive relief, which, among other things, require it:

To take steps to ensure that future airbag designs include "fail-safe" features to protect passengers in the event the inflator ruptures.

To adopt changes to its procurement process for new frontal airbags, to ensure that its suppliers have the appropriate industry certifications and satisfy key industry performance standards, as well as improve record-keeping and parts tracking.

To implement recurrence prevention procedures designed to prevent a tragedy like this from ever happening again, such as requiring that Honda approve all new frontal airbag designs before the company will consider them for use in new Honda vehicles.

To abide by prohibitions on misleading advertisements and point of sale representations regarding the safety of Honda's vehicles, including the airbags.

To make improvements in critical areas such as risk management, quality control, supplier oversight, training and certifications, and implementing mandatory whistleblower protections.

Honda also agreed to pay the participating attorneys general a total of $85,151,210.15. The CNMI Office of the Attorney General will receive a small portion of the settlement amount.

In addition to the Northern Mariana Islands, the multistate group—led by South Carolina, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, South Dakota, and Texas—includes Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Consumers who own a Honda or Acura vehicle are strongly encouraged to visit Honda's airbag recall website at https://hondaairbaginfo.com, or call its Customer Service toll-free number at (888) 234-2138, to see if their vehicle is subject to a recall. Consumers may also check for open recalls by going to Safercar.gov. All safety recall repairs are FREE at authorized Honda dealers. CNMI consumers can also contact the Office of the Attorney General's Office of the Consumer Counsel at 237-7500 or email at consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org with any questions about this settlement. ***(PR)***

Bank of Hawaii re-opens Guam branches

GUAM—Bank of Hawaii re-opened its Hagatna and Harmon branches last Friday, Aug. 28, from noon to 4pm, ChST. On the same day, Guam Gov. Leon Guerrero issued an executive order extending the stay-at-home orders for Guam through Sept. 4, with an exception for banks, which are allowed to re-open, effective Friday, Aug. 28.

Bank of Hawaii resumed its regularly scheduled hours for Hagatna and Harmon branches last Saturday, Aug. 29 (9am to 10am for Manamko hour), 10am to 1pm).

The bank encourages Guam customers to sign up for and use its digital banking services. For more information, please visit: www.boh.com/covid-19-main-page/remote-banking-options.

Bank of Hawaii's Call Center operations remain open to assist customers and can be reached at 1-877-553-2424 for assistance. ***(PR)***

BankGuam Holding Company declares dividends

HAGATNA, Guam—BankGuam Holding Company (BKGMF) announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the company's 5.5% Fixed Rate/Floating Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series A, at its board's regular meeting held on Monday, Aug. 24, 2020. The dividends will be paid on Sept. 30, 2020, to shareholders of record as of Sept. 15, 2020. ***(PR)***

Trump administration allows deferral of Social Security tax

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration on Friday allowed employers to suspend collection of some Social Security taxes, although business groups don't like the idea and it may create political headaches for Republicans. Democrats are already saying it would undermine retirement benefits.

The Treasury Department guidance came late in the day, less than 24 hours after the conclusion of the Republican National Convention and a speech by President Donald Trump in which he promised to protect Social Security and Medicare.

It allows employers to offer their workers a temporary deferral of the 6.2% payroll tax employees pay into the Social Security Trust Fund for the rest of this year. The taxes owed would not be forgiven, and instead would come due in 2021.

It's unclear how many employers will take the option, since implementing it would involve additional effort and expenses on their part.

"The guidance allows employers to defer withholding and paying the employee's portion of the Social Security payroll tax if the employee's wages are below a certain amount," Treasury said in a terse press release. The earnings cutoff is $104,000 a year.

Trump had ordered the tax deferral in early August after Congress deadlocked on the latest coronavirus relief bill. The president argues more money in workers' pockets for the rest of this year will translate to a boost for the economy.

But major business groups traditionally allied with the White House called the idea unworkable for employers and unfair to workers. Employers wanted to avoid the hassle of having to collect the deferred taxes later on from their workers.

Neil Bradley, policy chief for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said Friday night the Treasury guidance leaves many practical questions unanswered.

"However, it makes clear that employees will be required to pay more taxes beginning in January to offset any benefit they receive now," Bradley said. "The only way to achieve a workable proposal is for Congress and the administration to come together and enact a change in the law."

Lawmakers have little desire to tinker with Social Security.

An analysis by the Chamber found that a hypothetical worker making $75,000 a year would get nearly $179 more every two weeks through the rest of this year. But that same worker would owe about $1,610 next year. A worker making $35,000 would get about $83 more biweekly the rest of this year, and owe just over $750 next year.

Separately, AARP wrote Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to express concerns about the potential consequences for Social Security finances.

Regardless of the practical impact of Treasury's action, it appears Social Security will be thrust into the election maelstrom.

Trump has also teased that if he's reelected he would press for a permanent cut in Social Security taxes. Although the president argues it will help revive an economy battered by the coronavirus, many economists disagree.

"At the end of the year, the assumption that I win, I'm going to terminate the payroll tax, which is another thing that some of the great economists would like to see done," Trump told reporters earlier this month, adding that "tremendous growth" in the U.S. will cover the costs of Social Security. "We'll be paying into Social Security through the general fund."

Nation

‘7 bullets, 7 days’: Protesters march for Blake in Kenosha

AP

Hundreds march at a rally for Jacob Blake Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020, in Kenosha, Wis.

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP)—With chants of “One person, one vote!” and “No justice, no peace!” a crowd of about 1,000 demonstrators gathered outside a Wisconsin courthouse Saturday to denounce police violence and share messages of change, a week after an officer shot Jacob Blake in the back and left the 29-year-old Black man paralyzed.

The diverse group of protesters also chanted “Seven bullets, seven days!”—a reference to the number of times Blake was shot last Sunday—as they marched toward the courthouse in Kenosha. There, Blake’s father, Jacob Blake Sr., gave an impassioned call for changing a system he described as fostering police brutality and racial inequities.

“There were seven bullets put in my son’s back. ... Hell yeah, I’m mad,” said Blake Sr. He said he wants to ask the police “what gave them the right to attempted murder on my child? What gave them the right to think that my son was an animal? What gave them the right to take something that was not theirs? I’m tired of this.”

Kenosha Police Officer Rusten Sheskey and two other officers were responding to a domestic dispute call last Sunday when Sheskey shot Blake in the back. Blake Sr. told reporters on Saturday that his son is heavily sedated, but he has regained consciousness.

“He’s in a lot of pain,” he said. “I just wish I could pick my baby up and make it all right.” He called for Sheskey to be charged and for the other two officers at the scene to be fired.

Several of Saturday’s speakers encouraged the crowd to vote for change in November, and to push for changing legislation in Wisconsin that would lead to police reform.

“Justice is a bare minimum,” Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes said. “Justice should be guaranteed to everybody in this country.”

Blake Sr. asked those at the rally to raise their fists with him. “We are not going to stop going in the right direction. We’re going to the top ... we’re gonna make legislation happen because that’s the only thing that they recognize,” he said.

Blake Sr. also referred to the May 25 death of George Floyd, a handcuffed Black man who died after a Minneapolis officer pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck. Said Blake Sr., “We all have a knee on the back of our necks, every day.”

One of Blake’s sisters, Letetra Widman, said she felt recharged “to stand up not just for Jacob, but for all the people who have not gotten justice.”

Captured on cellphone video, the shooting sparked new protests against racial injustice and police brutality months after Floyd’s death touched off a wider reckoning on race.

Protesters have marched in Kenosha every night since Blake’s shooting, with some protests devolving into unrest with damage to buildings and vehicles. On Tuesday, two people were killed by an armed civilian. The commander of the National Guard said Friday that more than 1,000 Guard members had been deployed to help keep the peace, with more on the way.

Most people dispersed from the protest on Saturday before a 7 p.m. curfew. More than an hour after curfew, law enforcement officers, including some wearing U.S. Marshals Service identification, surrounded about a dozen people gathered outside of the Kenosha County Courthouse and made several arrests.

President Donald Trump will visit Kenosha on Tuesday to meet with law enforcement and survey damage from recent demonstrations that turned violent, White House spokesman Judd Deere told reporters traveling with the president Saturday night. Trump, who toured hurricane-ravaged areas of Louisiana and Texas earlier Saturday, had told reporters that he “probably” would visit the city.

Asked to weigh in on Tuesday’s shootings in which 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse was charged, Trump demurred and said “it’s under investigation” and that “we are looking at it very, very carefully.”

‘How dare we not vote?’ Black voters organize after DC march

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tears streamed down Brooke Moreland’s face as she watched tens of thousands gather on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to decry systemic racism and demand racial justice in the wake of several police killings of Black Americans.

But for the Indianapolis mother of three, the fiery speeches delivered Friday at the commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom also gave way to one central message: Vote and demand change at the ballot box in November.

“As Black people, a lot of the people who look like us died for us to be able to sit in public, to vote, to go to school and to be able to walk around freely and live our lives,” the 31-year-old Moreland said. “Every election is an opportunity, so how dare we not vote after our ancestors fought for us to be here?”

That determination could prove critical in a presidential election where race is emerging as a flashpoint. President Donald Trump, at this past week’s Republican National Convention, emphasized a “law and order” message aimed at his largely white base of supporters. His Democratic rival, Joe Biden, has expressed empathy with Black victims of police brutality and is counting on strong turnout from African Americans to win critical states such as North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

As the campaign enters its latter stages, there’s an intensifying effort among African Americans to transform frustration over police brutality, systemic racism and the disproportionate toll of the coronavirus into political power. Organizers and participants said Friday’s march delivered a much needed rallying cry to mobilize.

“If we do not vote in numbers that we’ve never ever seen before and allow this administration to continue what it is doing, we are headed on a course for serious destruction,” Martin Luther King III told The Associated Press before his rousing remarks, delivered 57 years after his father’s famous “I Have A Dream” speech. “I’m going to do all that I can to encourage, promote, to mobilize and what’s at stake is the future of our nation, our planet. What’s at stake is the future of our children.”

As speakers implored attendees to “vote as if our lives depend on it,” the march came on the heels of yet another shooting by a white police officer of a Black man – 29-year-old Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, last Sunday—sparking demonstrations and violence that left two dead.

“We need a new conversation … you act like it’s no trouble to shoot us in the back,” the Rev. Al Sharpton said. “Our vote is dipped in blood. We’re going to vote for a nation that stops the George Floyds, that stops the Breonna Taylors.”

Navy veteran Alonzo Jones- Goss, who traveled to Washington from Boston, said he plans to vote for Biden because the nation has seen far too many tragic events that have claimed the lives of Black Americans and other people of color.

“I supported and defended the Constitution and I support the members that continue to do it today, but the injustice and the people that are losing their lives, that needs to end,” Jones-Goss, 28, said. “It’s been 57 years since Dr. King stood over there and delivered his speech. But what is unfortunate is what was happening 57 years ago is still happening today.”

Drawing comparisons to the original 1963 march, where participants then were protesting many of the same issues that have endured, National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial said it’s clear why this year’s election will be pivotal for Black Americans.

Biden, aiming at Trump, says he won’t use military as ‘prop’

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joe Biden said on Saturday that as president, he would never use the military “as a prop or private militia” and accused President Donald Trump of employing U.S. forces to settle “personal vendettas” and violate citizens’ rights.

The Democratic presidential nominee, in a virtual address to the National Guard Association of the United States’ general conference, said Trump recommended “that you should be deployed to quote, ‘dominate,’ your fellow citizens for exercising their right to peacefully protest.”

“We’re so much better than this,” Biden said. “You deserve so much better.”

His comments came a day after Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress that the armed forces will have no role in carrying out the election process or resolving a disputed vote.

It was a sign of rising tensions on both sides as the president has declared without evidence that the expected surge in mail-in ballots during the coronavirus pandemic will make the vote “inaccurate and fraudulent.” Trump has also suggested he might not accept the election results if he loses.

Biden has said he’s “absolutely convinced” the military would escort Trump from the White House if the incumbent lost but refused to leave.

Biden didn’t repeat the assertion while addressing the conference, but promised to restore the separation between civilian and military powers which he called “the bedrock principal of our republic.”

“It’s been tested lately, but I promise you, as president, I’ll never put you in the middle of politics or personal vendettas,” the former vice president. “I’ll never use the military as a prop or as a private militia to violate rights of fellow citizens. That’s not law and order.”

That was a reference to Trump’s recent efforts to expand federal intervention into some cities as he makes “law and order” a centerpiece of his reelection bid, against the backdrop of protests against institutional racism and police brutality that have swept the country. In July, the president deployed federal forces to Chicago and Albuquerque, New Mexico, after earlier sending Homeland Security agents to Portland, Oregon.

Asia

Abe resigns due to health

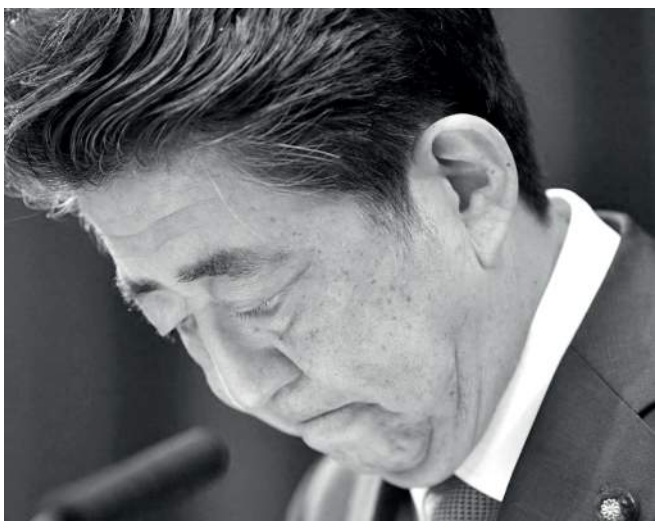
TOKYO (AP)—Japan's longest-serving prime minister, Shinzo Abe, said he is stepping down because a chronic health problem has resurfaced. He told reporters Friday that it was "gut wrenching" to leave many of his goals unfinished.

Abe has had ulcerative colitis since he was a teenager and has said the condition was controlled with treatment. Concerns about his health began this summer and grew this month when he visited a Tokyo hospital two weeks in a row for unspecified health checkups. He is now on a new treatment that requires IV injections, he said. While there is some improvement, there is no guarantee that it will cure his condition and so he decided to step down after treatment Monday, he said.

"It is gut wrenching to have to leave my job before accomplishing my goals," Abe said Friday, mentioning his failure to resolve the issue of Japanese abducted years ago by North Korea, a territorial dispute with Russia and a revision of Japan's war-renouncing constitution.

He said his health problem was under control until earlier this year but was found to have worsened in June when he had an annual checkup.

"Faced with the illness and treatment, as well as the pain of lacking physical strength ... I decided I should not stay on as prime minister when I'm no longer capable of living up to the people's expectations with confidence," Abe said at a news conference.



AP

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe downs his head as he says he is stepping down during a press conference at the prime minister official residence in Tokyo Friday, Aug. 28, 2020.

In a country once known for its short-tenured prime ministers, the departure marks the end of an unusual era of stability that saw the Japanese leader strike up strong ties with President Donald Trump even as Abe's ultra-nationalism riled the Koreas and China. While he pulled Japan out of recession, the economy has been battered anew by the coronavirus pandemic, and Abe has failed to achieve his cherished goal of formally rewriting the U.S.-drafted pacifist constitution because of poor public support.

Abe said he achieved a stronger Japan-U.S. security alliance and the first visit by a serving U.S. president to the atom-bombed city of Hiroshima. He also helped Tokyo gain the right to host the 2020 Olympics by pledging that a disaster at the Fukushima nuclear plant was "under control" when it was not.

Recently, "the coronavirus impact on the economy was a blow to Abe, who was stuck at home and lacking an opportunity to make any achievement or show off his friendship with Trump, and was pushed into a corner," said Koichi Nakano, an international politics professor at Sophia University in Tokyo.

Cases still rise in S. Korea, Malaysia stays shut

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has reported 323 new cases of the coronavirus as health officials prepare to tighten distancing restrictions in the greater capital area.

The 16th consecutive day of triple-digit jumps brought the national caseload to 19,400. Fatalities reached 321 after five more deaths overnight.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Saturday that 249 of the new cases came from the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where about half of the country's 51 million people live. Health workers have struggled to track infections linked to churches, restaurants, schools and apartment buildings.

The country has added 4,630 cases over the last 16 days, raising fears about overwhelming hospitals.

Kwon Jun-wook, director of South Korea's National Health Institute, said the death toll could rise in the coming weeks as many of those who tested positive this month were 60 years or older, an age group that's more likely to experience serious health complications caused by the virus.

He said 64 of the country's active patients are in critical condition, compared to 14 on Aug. 14, when the country began the current streak of triple-digit daily increases.

"While young people may think that COVID-19 is an illness they could recover from after a certain period, it could become a life and death matter for the parents and grandparents they love and also people with existing medical conditions," Kwon said during a virus briefing, pleading for vigilance in social distancing. "Each and every one of us ... is at war with COVID-19. In war, we need to maintain unity to protect the safety of ourselves and our neighbors and prevent the collapse of all our social systems."

More than 1,000 infections have been linked to a northern Seoul church led by a conservative pastor who opposes the country's president. The spread worsened after thousands of anti-government protesters, including members of the Sarang Jeil Church and its pastor, Jun Kwang-hun, marched in downtown Seoul on Aug. 15. More than 300, including Jun, have tested positive.

For eight days starting Sunday, restaurants in the Seoul metropolitan area will provide only deliveries and takeouts after 9 p.m. Franchised coffee shops like Starbucks will sell only takeout drinks and food while gyms and after-school academies will be shut to slow the viral spread in the region.

Authorities have already banned larger gatherings, shut down nightspots and churches, and shifted most schools back to remote learning nationwide. But they have so far resisted elevating restrictions to the highest level. Such a move would possibly include a ban on all gatherings of more than 10 people, shutting down a broader range of businesses and having private company employees work from home.

World

Hospital: Russia's Navalny still in coma but improving

BERLIN (AP)—Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny is still in an induced coma from a suspected poisoning but his condition is stable and his symptoms are improving, the German doctors treating him said Friday.

Navalny, a politician and corruption investigator who is one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics, fell ill on a flight back to Moscow from Siberia on Aug 20 and was taken to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk after the plane made an emergency landing.

Last weekend, he was transferred to the Charité hospital in Berlin, where doctors found indications of "cholinesterase inhibitors" in his system.

Found in some drugs, pesticides and chemical nerve agents, cholinesterase inhibitors block the breakdown of a key chemical in the body, acetycholine, that transmits signals between nerve cells.

Navalny, 44, is being treated with the antidote atropine. Charité said "there has been some improvement in the symptoms caused by the inhibition of cholinesterase activity."

"While his condition remains serious, there is no immediate danger to his life," the hospital said. "However, due to the severity of the patient's poisoning, it remains too early to gauge potential long-term effects."

Navalny's wife Yulia has been visiting him regularly at the hospital and Charité said physicians remain in close contact with her.

Navalny

Navalny's allies insist he was deliberately poisoned and say the Kremlin was behind it, accusations that Russian officials rejected as "empty noise."

Western experts have cautioned that it is far too early to draw any conclusions about what may have caused Navalny's condition, but note that Novichok, the Soviet-era nerve agent used to poison former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Britain, was a cholinesterase inhibitor.

The Russian doctors who treated Navalny in Siberia have repeatedly contested the German hospital's conclusion, saying they had ruled out poisoning as a diagnosis and that their tests for cholinesterase inhibitors came back negative.

Navalny was brought to Germany for treatment after Chancellor Angela Merkel personally offered the possibility of him being treated in Berlin.

"We have an obligation to do everything so that this can be cleared up," Merkel told reporters at her annual summer news conference on Friday. "It was right and good that Germany said we were prepared ... to take in Mr. Navalny. And now we will try to get this cleared up with the possibilities we have, which are indeed limited."

When there is more clarity about what happened, Germany will try to ensure a "European reaction" to the case, Merkel said. She cited the poisonings of Skripal and his daughter two years ago, which prompted many European countries to expel Russian diplomats and vice-versa.

Following a meeting in Berlin with his counterparts from 26 European Union countries, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said forcefully that Russia had an obligation to carry out a thorough investigation, something many countries have called for.

"Russia must contribute more to clearing up the Navalny case, and the investigations that we expect must not remain a fig leaf," Maas told reporters. "The background to this act must be investigated comprehensively and transparently, and those responsible—directly and indirectly —brought to account."

Beirut residents determined to save heritage lost to blast

BEIRUT (AP)—For the past decade, art collector Nabil Debs has been working on turning his 19th century ancestral home in a historic neighborhood of Beirut to a hotel and art gallery. He planned to open it to the public in mid-August.

Within seconds, his lifelong dream came crashing down, along with the two-story building's stone facade and front balcony as a massive explosion tore through Beirut, shearing off facades, blasting holes in buildings, doors, stones and shattering glass across the capital.

The Aug. 4 blast resulting from nearly 3,000 tons of improperly stored ammonium nitrates igniting at the port of Beirut killed more than 180 people and wounded nearly 6,000. It also damaged thousands of buildings, including dozens of charming Ottoman and French mandate-era structures which had been among the few survivors of a years-old construction frenzy replacing traditional houses with modern buildings. They include old homes, restaurants, museums and churches.

In the streets of two Beirut historic neighborhoods, Gemmayzeh and Mar Mikhael, workers are erecting scaffolding to support buildings that have stood for more than a century - now at risk of collapse.

Among them is the house of Debs, who says he is more determined to go ahead with his project, called Arthaus, that consists of 25 rooms. Days after the explosion, after he'd recovered from the shock and workers started renovation works. Now he plans the inauguration for mid-September.

"We have been working on this project for the last 10 years. For us it is a labor of love," said Debs, standing in a yard between his ancestral red-brick house, which was built in 1860, and another family home built in 1780. "We love the project, we love Beirut and we love Lebanon and that's what we are."

The day of the blast, Debs was at the house. He stepped outside into the backyard with a friend who wanted to smoke a cigarette. They were lucky. Had they gone to the front, the whole facade would have fallen on them. They miraculously escaped without a scratch.

"It was a horror story," Debs said.

He estimates his losses to be at least $250,000 and could reach $1.5 million, as some art pieces including sculptures were damaged.

Naji Raji, an activist and spokesman for Save Beirut Heritage, said the blast damaged more than 600 historic buildings in Beirut, of which about 40 are at risk of collapse. He said out of the 40 buildings, work has begun to support 17 of them. Raji said some estimates put the cost of renovating old buildings at about $300 million.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Can you help your immune system ward off coronavirus?

By Stacey Burling
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

By now, you've probably seen advertisements for supplements or other products that promise to prevent the new coronavirus. Maybe your friends have talked up the wonders of high doses of vitamin C or told you that drinking water can wash away the virus.

The federal government recently warned marketers of essential oils, teas and colloidal silver to stop claiming these products can prevent the disease caused by the new coronavirus, COVID-19. The Food and Drug Administration said there are no approved vaccines, drugs, or investigational products currently available to treat or prevent the virus.

Don't get your hopes up that there's any over-the-counter fix that will leave you unscathed by the new pandemic. Three immunologists — Timothy Craig, a professor of medicine and pediatrics in allergy and immunology at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center; Cathryn Nagler, a mucosal immunologist at the University of Chicago and distinguished fellow of the American Association of Immunologists, and John Wherry, director of the Institute of Immunology at Penn Medicine — said there's no strong evidence that any herb or supplement, including vitamin C, will prevent coronavirus. Like drinking water, taking most of them probably won't hurt you, but also won't help. Probiotics also won't save you. Colloidal silver can be harmful.

"I personally don't take any vitamins," Nagler said.

These efforts to prey on our fears do raise an interesting question, though. Since our immune system is all we've got between us and the ICU as this virus spreads, are there ways we can make it work better?

The immunologists agreed that your best bet is to try to prevent exposure. So, do what all the public health experts have been telling you. Wash your hands thoroughly and often. If you can't access soap and water, use a hand gel that's 60% alcohol or more. Avoid crowds and close contact with other people. If you are over age 60 or have underlying health conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes, take these prevention steps very seriously. The new disease is much harder on older people and those in already weakened health.

If you get a cough, fever or feel short of breath, protect others by staying home.

Do your best not to touch your face, especially your eyes, nose and mouth. These are the home of the mucosa that Nagler studies and they are where all viruses enter our bodies. Your skin itself is a good barrier, she said.

The viruses will invade in two ways. Someone coughs or sneezes on something like a counter. You touch it and then touch a mucosal tissue. Or they cough near you and droplets laden with virus fly into your eyes or nose. This is why it's a good idea to stay six feet away from others.

Nagler said it's also wise to get vaccinated for other deadly viruses, like the flu. The pandemic, she said, will be a lesson for people who don't remember what the pre-vaccine world was like.

"Fifty years ago, we had epidemics like this all the time, because we had no vaccines for diseases like measles, mumps and rubella," she said. "Polio was a scourge like this."

Wherry said there's no single measure of how well your immune system is working, which makes it hard to know if anything is making it better, kind of like asking whether the economy is healthy. Are you asking about the stock market? The job market?

Something could help fight bacterial infection but do nothing for viral infection, Wherry said. It might work against one virus but not another. It is a safe bet, he said, that no supplements have been tested against the newly identified virus that causes COVID-19.

You also don't want your immune system to be too revved up. That's what happens when you have chronic inflammation from stress, poor diet or sickness. It weakens response to new invaders. A truly over-active immune system can be deadly and was associated with pneumonia from two earlier coronaviruses, MERS and SARS.

The best route to a well-functioning immune system is to do what doctors always tell you to do:

Eat a healthy diet rich in vegetables, fiber and whole grains. Get seven to nine hours of sleep. Maintain a healthy weight. Try to manage your stress. Stop smoking. Don't drink excessively.

Craig said sleep is especially important for the immune system. "Sleep deprivation is bad," he said. "It increases inflammatory factors."

It's also a relatively easy thing to improve. "Correcting poor sleep patterns may have a quicker effect than having to lose 30% of your body weight," Wherry said.

Craig said aerobic exercise is likely the most beneficial kind of physical activity. Right now, he said, "you may not want to do that in a crowded gym. … This is a good time to get out there in nature and walk where you're not in crowded spaces." It might also be good for your mental health during a stressful time.

"While the mechanisms are not understood, exercise and some of the chemicals released during exercise do seem to have immune boosting or at least immune resetting capabilities," Wherry said. Obviously, though, this is not a good time to exhaust yourself with too much exercise.

As for your bad habits, smoking damages the lungs and causes inflammation that lessens their ability to fight infection, Nagler said.

Craig said it suppresses the immune system and makes it harder for lungs to free themselves of fluid and viruses. Smokers are also more prone to bacterial pneumonia, which can find a foothold in lungs weakened by viruses.

Obesity is also hard on the immune system and it is strongly associated with the chronic diseases that raise risk of death from COVID-19.

Craig said it increases inflammation and contributes to immune system factors that leave people less able to fight viral infection.

"We need our immune system to be sitting in a resting, really fit state, and being obese strains it," Wherry said.

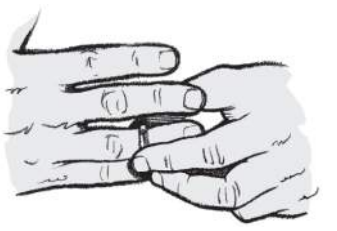
If you haven't been paying attention to the doctors for the last few decades, you're probably not going to fix your immune system overnight. Getting healthier will take longer than that.

You'll probably get the fastest results from sleeping better and stopping smoking. Craig said lungs might start functioning better in weeks.

How to wash your hands

Whether using antibacterial or regular soap, consumers will get the best results by following proper hand-washing procedures. The main benefit of hand-washing is its ability to dislodge and wash away bacteria and viruses rather than killing them. Here are some tips:

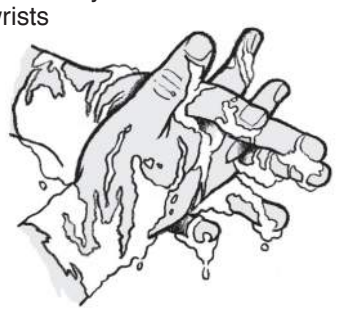
1 Water Start with warm water because you want to be comfortable and because water hot enough to kill germs would likely injure you; warm water may help with soap lathering



2 Jewelry Remove any rings or jewelry or watches

3 Soap Touchless pumps are optimal as bars or pumps can harbor bacteria from other people who use them; follow the instructions on the recommended amounts of soap to use

4 Lather Lather the palms, in between the fingers, on the back of hands and under the fingernails; scoop the soap from the palm with the fingers of the other hand and scrub around the nails and nail beds and then your thumbs and wrists



5 Rinse Thoroughly rinse all the soap from your hands, with the whole process lasting around 25 seconds

6 Dry Dry hands with a paper towel because if you haven't thoroughly washed your hands, you can contaminate a towel that a whole family uses; throw away the paper towel in a waste basket when done

For high-risk situations

If changing a dirty diaper or handling raw chicken, you may want to both wash your hands, then finish with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

© 2013 MCT

Source: Allison Aiello, associate professor of epidemiology at the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
Graphic: Rick Tuma, Chicago Tribune

Life & Style

Chadwick Boseman, who embodied Black icons, dies of cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—First Chadwick Boseman slipped on the cleats of Jackie Robinson, then the Godfather of Soul's dancing shoes, portraying both Black American icons with a searing intensity that commanded respect. When the former playwright suited up as Black Panther, he brought cool intellectual gravitas to the Marvel superhero whose "Wakanda forever!" salute reverberated worldwide.

As his Hollywood career boomed, though, Boseman was privately undergoing "countless surgeries and chemotherapy" to battle colon cancer, his family said in a statement announcing his death at age 43 on Friday. He'd been diagnosed at stage 3 in 2016 but never spoke publicly about it.

The cancer was there when his character T'Challa visited the ancestors' "astral plane" in poignant scenes from the Oscar-nominated "Black Panther," there when he first became a producer on the action thriller "21 Bridges," and there last summer when he shot an adaptation of a play by his hero August Wilson. It was there when he played a radical Black leader—seen only in flashbacks and visions —whose death is mourned by Vietnam War comrades-in-arms in Spike Lee's "Da 5 Bloods."

"A true fighter, Chadwick persevered through it all, and brought you many of the films you have come to love so much," his family said. "It was the honor of his career to bring King T'Challa to life in Black Panther." Boseman died at his home in the Los Angeles area with his wife and family by his side, his publicist Nicki Fioravante told The Associated Press.

Boseman

Boseman is survived by his wife and a parent and had no children, Fioravante said.

Born and raised in South Carolina, where he played Little League baseball and AAU basketball, Boseman graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He wrote plays, acted and directed in theater and had small roles in television before landing his breakthrough role.

His striking portrayal of the color-line-demolishing baseball star Robinson opposite Harrison Ford in 2013's "42" drew attention in Hollywood and made him a star. A year later, he wowed audiences as Brown in the biopic "Get On Up."

Boseman died on a day that Major League Baseball was celebrating Jackie Robinson day. "His transcendent performance in '42' will stand the test of time and serve as a powerful vehicle to tell Jackie's story to audiences for generations to come," the league wrote in a tweet.

Expressions of shock and despair poured in late Friday from fellow actors, athletes, musicians, Hollywood titans, fans and politicians. Viola Davis, who acted alongside Boseman in "Get On Up" and the upcoming Wilson adaptation, said: "Chadwick.....no words to express my devastation of losing you. Your talent, your spirit, your heart, your authenticity."

"He was a gentle soul and a brilliant artist, who will stay with us for eternity through his iconic performances," said Denzel Washington, who funded a scholarship Boseman used to study theater at Oxford and produced the upcoming Wilson film.

Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris, a Howard alumna, wrote the actor "was brilliant, kind, learned, and humble. He left too early but his life made a difference."

Disney executive chairman Bob Iger called Boseman "an extraordinary talent, and one of the most gentle and giving souls I have ever met." "Captain America" actor Chris Evans called Boseman "a true original. He was a deeply committed and constantly curious artist. He had so much amazing work still left to create."

Obama, Johansson and more react to death of Chadwick Boseman

NEW YORK (AP)—"Chadwick came to the White House to work with kids when he was playing Jackie Robinson. You could tell right away that he was blessed. To be young, gifted, and Black; to use that power to give them heroes to look up to; to do it all while in pain—what a use of his years."

— Former President Barack Obama tweeted Saturday.

"Chadwick was not only a deeply soulful and powerful actor, but he was such a kind, thoughtful, funny and gentle person. He brightened every ones day every time he walked into our hair and makeup trailer or on set with his beautiful smile."

— Scarlett Johansson, who co-starred with Boseman in three Marvel films, said in a statement.

"Mr. Boseman leveled the playing field while fighting for his life... That's heroism. I'll remember the good times, the laughter, and the way he changed the game."

— Robert Downey Jr., another Marvel films co-star, said in a tweet.

"There's a reason (Chadwick Boseman) could play Jackie Robinson, Thurgood Marshall, and King T'Challa with such captivating depth and honesty. He, too, knew what it meant to truly persevere. He, too, knew that real strength starts inside. And he, too, belongs right there with them as a hero—for Black kids and for all of our kids."

— Michelle Obama, former first lady, wrote in an Instagram post.

"To honor the life, contributions and memory of a truly extraordinary son of South Carolina @chadwickboseman - I have ordered the flags atop the Statehouse to be lowered to half-staff tomorrow, Sunday August 30, 2020, from sunrise to sunset. The two flags will be removed at sunset and will be presented to Mr. Boseman's family at the appropriate time."

— Henry McMaster, governor of South Carolina, said on Twitter.

"I want to dedicate this pole to Chadwick. What he accomplished and the legacy he left is so incredible to me. He's inspired a whole generation of young black men and women and provided them with a true superhero to look up to. Rest in power my friend.#WakandaForever #blackpanther."

— Lewis Hamilton, Formula One world champion, wrote on Twitter referencing his latest win in Belgium on Saturday.

"I am devastated by the news of Chadwick's passing. He was one of the great actors and men. He radiated warmth and wisdom: talent and deep kindness."

— Sienna Miller, who co-starred with Boseman in the film "21 Bridges."

"A consummate professional, he absorbed every story, every memory and every photo and film excerpt he could consume to help translate the soul of an American hero. And now, Chadwick will be etched in history as a hero in his own right, especially have shown millions of Black and brown children the power of a superhero who looks like them. Chadwick — may you rest in peace eternally. Take your place among the greats. You earned it."

— The Jackie Robinson Foundation said in a statement, noting Boseman worked closely with the baseball great's widow Rachel for the film "42."

"I'm heartbroken at the loss of #ChadwickBoseman. He was a tremendous actor who brought some of our community's heroes to life. My prayers are w/ his family. His legacy will endure. Wakanda Forever!"

— Maxine Waters, congresswoman from California, tweeted.

"Rest gently, King. Chadwick Boseman."

— Beyoncé wrote on her website.

"An immense, stunning loss. @chadwickboseman was a Black icon, a star among stars who had so much more to give the world. It feels like just the other day I was next to him in Chicago. Now he's gone, way too soon. Rest in power, King."

— Scottie Pippen, longtime Chicago Bulls star and six-time NBA champion, said on Twitter.

Man considers reaching out to dangerous former friend

DEAR ABBY: I cut off contact with a friend I'll call "Mick" after my wife and I had our first child. He was a gambling addict, an alcoholic and a serial abuser of women. He was violent when he drank and once broke my nose because of some perceived slight.

Mick had a troubled childhood and then served in the Army in Afghanistan and Iraq. By the time he returned home, his mental health was extremely compromised, and I believe this is what led to most, if not all, of his issues and shortcomings.

I have always believed that, at heart, Mick is a good person. As someone who suffers from mental illness myself, I feel I can understand his issues on some level. I would like to reconnect with him, but I need to protect myself and my family, both emotionally and physically. How might I approach rekindling a relationship with Mick in a safe and reasonable way?

MISSING A FRIEND

DEAR MISSING: Drop that idea. You are not a therapist, and you can't "fix" what's wrong with Mick. The man is a violent abuser, and you have no proof that he has sought counseling for his issues. Offering the hand of friendship to someone who broke your nose because he had been drinking could be dangerous for you and your family. Your first responsibility is THEIR safety.

DEAR ABBY: My friend and I befriended the most adorable older couple. They invite us over and they love lunching together. They are terrific company, and we always enjoy our time with them.

During our last visit, they were cooking lunch, and it was apparent that they don't wash their hands when preparing food. Because of the coronavirus, we aren't comfortable eating at their house anymore. We would be happy to bring something over, but they are set in their ways and like to prepare their own food. We tried saying we can't stay for lunch, but once we are with them, they start putting out the food. What advice can you give us?

STAYING SAFE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STAYING SAFE: Go online and check to see whether you can pick up the coronavirus from food. One would think that if the food is hot, the virus wouldn't survive the cooking process. Have you considered inviting them to your place instead?

If you think this charming couple's food puts you at risk of catching something unpleasant—like salmonella—the next time you are invited, lower your risk by bringing food for all of you. If they argue, tell them you are reciprocating their hospitality, which may have been one-sided if you have eaten there often. However, if they question you further, tell them the truth. While it may cool the relationship, it will increase your chances of staying healthy.

DEAR ABBY: My brother passed away recently. I bought a small life insurance policy 24 years ago to provide for his final expenses and to help his widow at the time of death. After paying for expenses, I plan to leave what's left to his widow. My husband is nudging me to deduct the premium I paid for the policy, but I don't feel comfortable about it. I'm not sure what I should do. Any suggestions?

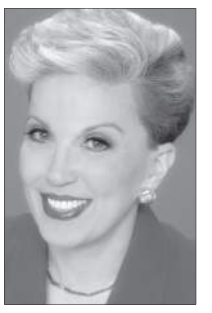
WONDERING IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR WONDERING: This was YOUR brother and this is your sister-in-law. Tune your "helpful" husband out and follow your conscience.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

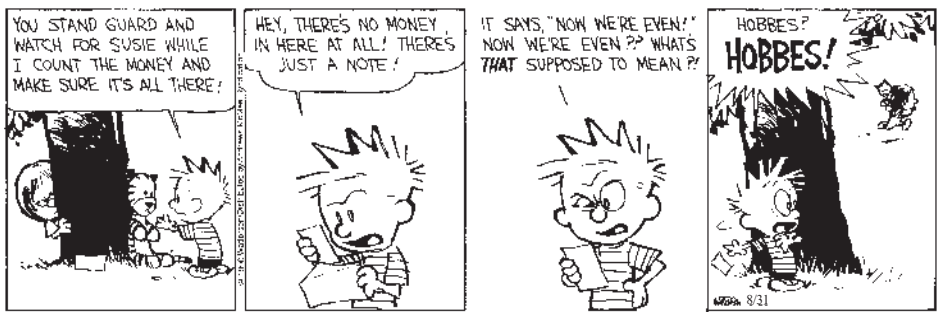


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU STAND GUARD AND WATCH FOR SUSIE WHILE I COUNT THE MONEY AND MAKE SURE IT'S ALL THERE!
HEY, THERE'S NO MONEY IN HERE AT ALL! THERE'S JUST A NOTE!
IT SAYS, "NOW WE'RE EVEN!" NOW WE'RE EVEN?? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
HOBBES?
HOBBES!
8/31

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

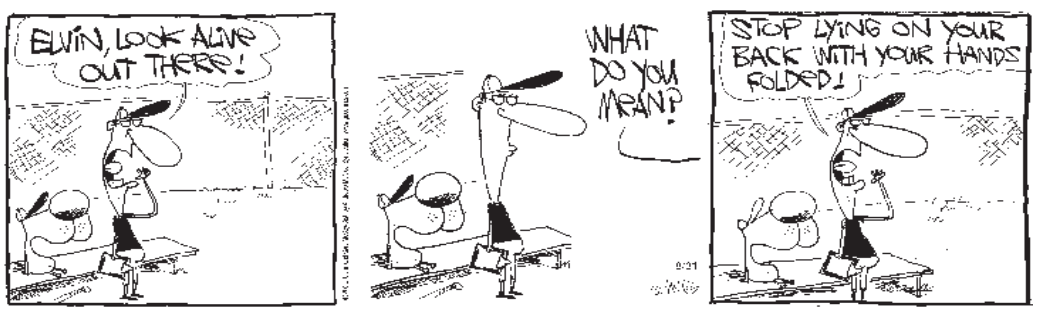
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

BOY, YOU NEED A NEW BACK.
YOU DON'T SAY.
WHAT? NO, I DID SAY IT.
NO, IT'S AN EXPRESSION. I WAS BEING SARCASTIC.
IT'S MEAN TO USE SARCASM ON CHILDREN.
FORGIVE ME. I'M SOOOOOO SORRY.
8-31

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bar bill
4 "Ben-Hur" studio
7 Campus area
11 Lawman Wyatt
13 Luau bowlful
14 Nullify
15 Pennsylvania port
16 Junior
17 Helps
18 Exhausted
20 Klinger portrayer
22 Hide-hair insert
24 Discarded cargo
28 Big name in coloring supplies
32 Perry's assistant
33 Circle dance
34 Covert agent
36 Katy Perry hit song
37 Elroy's dog
39 Pennants
41 Daytona 500 acronym
43 "O Sole —"
44 Location
46 Top story
50 Travel
53 Young lion
55 Not difficult
56 Garfield's pal
57 Devoured
58 1973 Toni Morrison novel
59 Inning enders
60 Group of whales
61 Sawbuck

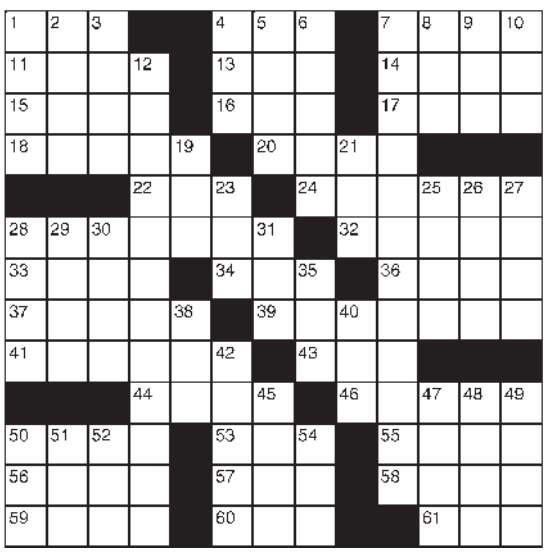
DOWN

1 Casual tops
2 Seniors' org.
3 Party cheese
4 AWOL pursuers
5 Blunder
6 "Pink Friday" singer Nicki
7 Musical symbols
8 Half of bi-
9 Do sum work?
10 Coifs
12 Retro amusement venues
19 Overly
21 Roulette bet
23 "Treasure Island" monogram
25 — gin fizz
26 Winged
27 Red planet
28 "Rush Hour" actor Jackie
29 Activist Parks
30 Sciences' partner
31 LAPD alert
35 Thanksgiving veggie
38 Crew tool
40 Actress Vardalos
42 Summary
45 Car
47 Lacking slack
48 Capri, e.g.
49 Printer's blue
50 Romance
51 College URL ender
52 Petty peeve
54 Sleep site

Solution time: 26 mins.

T	E	P		D		A	L	B		A	F	T
O	M	A	N	I		R	O	T		D	L	V
Y	U	C	C	A		C	O	W	B	O	Y	S
		K	A	N	S	A	S		C	B	I	E
A	D	E		E	O	N		S	P	E	N	T
T	U	R	F		G	E	E	S	E			
I	O	S		N	G		R	F	F	V	F	S
			L	A	Y	L	A		P	I	T	A
S	T	A	M	P		O	S	F		K	F	G
C	O	L	E		M	L	E	S	L	I		
R	A	I	D	F	R	S		T	I	N	T	S
O	C	S		P	I	E		E	D	G	E	D
D	S	T		A	S	S		F	S	S	F	S

Last Friday's Answer 08/31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Ramirez, 45; Chris Tucker, 49; Zack Ward, 50; Richard Gere, 71.

Happy Birthday: You'll discover new ways to interact with people you love and those who share your interests. A positive change will be a step toward personal freedom and a new beginning. Finding solutions will be your thing, and setting new standards geared toward a better lifestyle will result in substantial stability and security. Make physical improvements, and love your priorities. Your numbers are 8, 17, 21, 23, 30, 32, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take your time, dig deep, get the facts and make decisions based on verified information, not what someone leads you to believe. Separate your business and personal lives to avoid confusion and interference. Protect against illness, arguments and injury. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Stick to your plan, regardless of what others do. Personal gain is apparent if you are diligent in using your knowledge, experience and skills to get ahead. A physical change will boost your morale and attract compliments. Romance is favored. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look for the positive in every situation you face, and you'll find a way to take care of your responsibilities and have time left to enjoy doing something that makes you happy. Refuse to let anyone put unfair demands on you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You may not like change, but it's time to make adjustments that will encourage you to keep up with technology and economic trends. Don't fight the inevitable; go with the flow, and be happy with the results. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep moving forward. Looking back will cause confusion and uncertainty. Focus on what you can do, and live in the moment. Refuse to let anyone compromise your health and well-being. Tunnel vision will be required if you want to excel. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a break from your schedule. The change will spark your imagination and encourage you to make adjustments to the way you live. Focus on what makes you happy and how best to incorporate memorable moments into your daily routine. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Personal improvement is favored. Change situations that are unsuitable or causing stress. Refuse to let anyone bully you into something you don't want to do. Call the shots, and make your thoughts and your needs known. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stick to your original plan, regardless of the emotional backlash you get from others. You are responsible for your happiness, so do whatever it takes to do what's in your best interest. Romance is in the stars. Live life your way. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Live and learn. Take on a physical challenge that will pump you up and encourage you to get involved in something you find serviceable and rewarding. Learn from your mistakes and experiences, and you will find a path that gratifies you. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Pay less attention to what's already happened and more attention to the best way to move forward. Concentrate on home improvements, lowering your overhead and doing whatever it takes to feel financially comfortable. A renewed respect develops with someone you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Refuse to let your emotions take over. Look at situations from a logical perspective, and you will understand situations you face with clarity. You can't change others, but you can make decisions and changes that suit your needs. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Lend a helping hand, and you will make new connections. An unusual partnership will turn out to be helpful as well as entertaining. Love and romance are in the stars, and a change of pace is heading your way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are productive, fussy and organized. You are resourceful and ambitious.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7		4		6		1	
8		5			1	7		3
	2			3			5	
1	4			7				6
		8				9		
6				4			3	1
	5			1			9	
7		9	6			4		5
	8		2		5		6	

Difficulty Level ★ 8/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	5	7	4	3	8	2	9	6
6	2	4	9	1	5	3	8	7
3	8	9	6	7	2	1	5	4
9	3	1	7	8	4	6	2	5
7	6	8	5	2	3	9	4	1
2	4	5	1	6	9	8	7	3
5	9	3	8	4	6	7	1	2
4	1	2	3	9	7	5	6	8
8	7	6	2	5	1	4	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FOOD WITH UNSATURATED FATS Solution: 9 letters

D	H	P	S	E	L	B	A	T	E	G	E	V	S	R
R	I	H	U	N	G	E	R	H	P	T	A	S	T	E
E	P	U	E	R	K	W	A	M	S	F	E	A	N	P
W	E	E	Q	L	E	E	E	Ⓗ	Ⓢ	Ⓘ	Ⓕ	L	A	P
O	A	M	O	I	M	H	L	T	V	B	D	A	L	E
L	N	Y	G	E	L	S	L	O	T	E	I	D	P	P
F	U	H	A	A	G	A	H	M	T	R	Y	S	E	U
N	T	T	R	G	R	C	A	E	H	R	T	T	C	M
U	S	D	E	E	N	R	V	S	O	U	O	I	A	P
S	A	L	N	A	G	I	O	K	N	S	M	U	N	K
E	L	I	I	A	L	Y	C	L	E	K	E	R	T	I
S	M	A	R	O	B	I	A	E	I	O	G	F	E	N
A	O	I	E	E	H	W	D	H	A	O	A	P	E	R
M	N	R	A	M	A	L	O	N	A	C	H	I	A	O
E	G	N	I	T	A	E	S	E	I	R	O	L	A	C

© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 8/31

Anchovies, Avocados, Calorie, Canola, Cashew, Chia, Cook, Corn, DHA, Diet, Dish, Eating, Eggs, EPA, Fiber, Fish, Fruit, Hemp, Hickory, Hunger, Lard, Liquid, Margarine, Meal, Meat, Mineral, Oils, Olive, Omega, Peanut, Pecan, Pepper, Plants, Pumpkin, Pure, Salads, Salmon, Seed, Sesame, Soybean, Sunflower, Taste, Thyme, Trout, Vegetables, Walnut, Weight, Yolk

Last Friday's Answer: Maestro

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Bucks, Lakers advance to semifinals

AP
Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo, right, dunks over Orlando Magic's Gary Clark during the first half of an NBA first round playoff game Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

FLORIDA (AP)—Brook Lopez sensed bonds between Milwaukee Bucks players strengthening after their decision to boycott a playoff game sent ripples across the NBA and other major pro sports leagues, which joined in suspending play to protest against racial injustice.

And when it was time to return to the court, they were in sync.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 17 rebounds and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Orlando Magic 118-104 on Saturday to close out the Eastern Conference series in five games.

"You could just feel the closeness," said Lopez, who had 16 points. "We're still out there on the floor taking care of our mission and what we want to achieve, but I think being through all this brought us together even more."

The Bucks advanced to face Miami in the second round, beginning Monday. But they showed little interest in congratulating themselves or talking about basketball after the first NBA game played since they declined to take the court on Wednesday night, when Game 5 was originally scheduled.

Their decision not to play came in response to the police shooting of Jacob Blake, who is Black, in Wisconsin. Before long, games were being postponed in the NHL and in Major League Baseball, while some NFL teams chose to call off training camp practices.

"Trying to end racial injustice and end racism and make this world a better place is still more important than anything we did today," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "Our players, their professionalism and their ability to come out and play today, it's what we expect from each other, but it's still hard to do."

Khris Middleton had 21 points and 10 rebounds for Milwaukee. The Bucks had a 21-point lead trimmed to three in the fourth quarter before regaining control with the help of Marvin Williams' timely outside shooting.

Williams scored all 12 of his points on 3-pointers for Milwaukee, which won four straight after dropping the opener.

"We did a great job, just from Game 1 until Game 5, just improving," Antetokounmpo said. "Hopefully, it can carry over to the next round."

Nicola Vucevic had 22 points and 15 rebounds for Orlando, while Evan Fournier added 18 points.

Milwaukee led 74-53 when after Middleton's 3 early in the second half. The Bucks still led by 20 with about three minutes left in the third quarter before Orlando surged back into the game.

Consecutive 3s by Terrence Ross and Wes Iwindu, followed by D.J. Augustin's floater, ignited a 24-7 run that saw the Magic cut it to 96-93 when Fournier hit a 3 with 7:37 to go.

The Bucks called timeout, starters checked back in, and Milwaukee quickly pulled away again, starting with Williams' 3 after Lopez's offensive rebound.

Middleton followed with a fade from the top of the key, Williams added another 3 and Middleton's free throw pushed the lead back to 105-93.

"They're a championship caliber team," Orlando coach Steve Clifford said of the Bucks. "We hung in there because we had the right approach and we had our chances."

Meanwhile, the ultimate objective is to win a title, but LeBron James said the Los Angeles Lakers achieved a key goal against the Portland Trail Blazers—and it wasn't simply to win the first-round playoff series.

It was improvement.

"We got better throughout the course of the series," James said. "We knew we were coming into a series versus a hot Portland team that was playing the best basketball inside the bubble along with Phoenix. So we wanted to just come in and try to work our game, get better and better as the games went on, as the series went on. And I believe we did that."

James had 36 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists and the Lakers advanced to the Western Conference semifinals, beating the short-handed Blazers 131-122 in Game 5 on Saturday night.

Anthony Davis had a playoff-best 43 points for the top-seeded Lakers in their first playoff appearance since 2013. The Lakers hadn't won a playoff series since 2012.

James has never lost a first-round playoff series, going 14-0.

The Lakers will play the winner of the series between Houston and Oklahoma City. The Rockets took a 3-2 lead with a 114-80 victory earlier Saturday.

CJ McCollum had 36 points for the surprisingly scrappy Trail Blazers, who played without injured All-Star guard Damian Lillard. Carmelo Anthony added 27 points.

Down 14 in the third quarter, Portland got to 100-97 on McCollum's layup and tied it on Anfernee Simon's 3-pointer to cap an 8-point run with 9:46 left. James answered with a 3.

Gary Trent Jr.'s 3-pointer tied it at 109 with just under seven minutes to go. Again the Lakers held off Portland with Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's 3.

After Trent's 3-pointer closed it to 114-112 with 4:53 left, Davis had a personal 11-0 run to put Los Angeles up 123-112 and all but seal it.

The game was originally set for Wednesday night, but players collectively decided not to play in the three playoff games scheduled for that day to protest racial injustice following the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Games on Friday were also postponed.

James said he hopes the past few days made a difference.

Rockets 114, Thunder 80

James Harden scored 31 points and Russell Westbrook returned to face his former team in the playoffs for the first time, helping the Houston Rockets beat the Oklahoma City Thunder for a 3-2 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Robert Covington added 22 points and Eric Gordon had 20. The Rockets can advance to the conference semifinals with a victory Monday.

Westbrook, who had played played just one game since Aug. 4 because of a quadriceps injury—missing the Rockets' first four playoff games—had seven points, six rebounds and seven assists in 23 minutes.

Dennis Schroder led the Thunder with 19 points despite being ejected midway through the third quarter for hitting P.J. Tucker in the groin; Tucker also was ejected after retaliating with a head-butt.

Steven Adams had 12 points and 14 rebounds, and Darius Bazley had 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Thunder. They trailed by three at halftime before giving up 19 of the first 21 points of the third.

Barcelona unwilling to negotiate Messi departure

MADRID (AP)—Barcelona is unwavering in its intention to keep Lionel Messi and will not facilitate his departure.

Spanish media reports said Messi has contacted the club to try to resolve the situation. Barcelona said Saturday that it will not negotiate to allow the Argentina great to depart before his contract ends next year.

Messi is not expected to report to the club on Sunday for scheduled coronavirus testing that is required for the entire squad before training can resume next week, according to Catalan radio RAC1.

Earlier this week, Messi said he wanted to invoke a contract clause that allowed him to leave at the end of last season, but the club said the clause had already expired.

A lengthy legal battle may ensue as the 33-year-old forward is expected to say the clause was valid until the end of the season, which was pushed back because of the pandemic.

Barcelona is not willing to give up on the player, especially not for free. Messi's contract, which ends in June 2021, has a buyout clause of 700 million euros ($830 million). He has been with the club for nearly two decades, leading it to more than three-dozen titles and holding most of its individual records.

Spanish media said Messi and his team of lawyers contacted the club late this week to try to discuss his situation. He had announced his intention to leave by sending the club a burofax, a certified document similar to a telegram.

Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu reportedly tried to meet with the player after his decision to leave was announced. He later said he was willing to resign if that was what it took to get Messi to stay, and if the six-time Ballon D'Or winner admitted the president's presence at the club was the reason he wanted to leave.

Messi reportedly talked to new coach Ronald Koeman before making his decision to leave.

Yankees beat Mets to stop 7-game slide

NEW YORK (AP)—Clint Frazier scored the winning run on Dellin Betances' wild pitch in the ninth inning, and the Yankees averted their longest losing streak in a quarter-century.

J.A. Happ pitched brilliantly into the eighth at Yankee Stadium and Luke Voit homered early for the injury-ravaged Bronx Bombers, who stopped a seven-game slide that followed six straight wins. They haven't dropped eight in a row since August 1995.

The Mets had won three straight and six of eight, including a Subway Series doubleheader sweep Friday at Yankee Stadium. Betances (0-1) got the loss against his former team.

Wilson Ramos greeted Yankees reliever Adam Ottavino with a tying home run in the eighth. Aroldis Chapman (1-1) got three outs for the win.

AP

New York Yankees' DJ LeMahieu, center, beats the tag at third by New York Mets third baseman J.D. Davis, right, on a triple hit off starting pitcher Robert Gsellman in the third inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020, in New York.

Dodgers 7, Rangers 4

Max Muncy drove in four runs close to home for the Los Angeles Dodgers, who can still avoid their first series loss of the season after a win over the Texas Rangers and potential trade target Lance Lynn.

Cody Bellinger's long two-run homer in the third put Los Angeles up 3-0. Muncy, who played high school baseball about 25 miles from the new Rangers ballpark, made it 4-2 with a deep sacrifice fly in the fifth off Lynn (4-1). The slugger then belted a three-run homer in the seventh.

Cubs 3, Reds 0, Game 1
Cubs 6, Cubs 5, Game 2

Nick Castellanos raced home on Craig Kimbrel's third wild pitch of the seventh inning, and the Reds avoided a doubleheader sweep.

Cincinnati took advantage of another rough performance by Kimbrel (0-1), who got off to a tough start this year before stringing together five consecutive scoreless appearances.

Aristides Aquino helped spark the Reds' rally with a tying RBI single off Kimbrel.

In the opener, Cubs ace Yu Darvish scattered seven hits over six innings, and Anthony Rizzo homered twice.

Angels 16, Mariners 3

Jo Adell hit his first two major league home runs, Mike Trout drove in six and Los Angeles set a season high in runs.

Angels right-hander Dylan Bundy (4-2), a subject of speculation ahead of Monday's trade deadline, returned to early season form after giving up four runs in each of his last two starts. He allowed only one run, four hits and three walks with three strikeouts for his fifth quality start in seven games.

Phillies 4, Braves 1

Rhys Hoskins had three hits, including a three-run homer, and Zach Eflin pitched seven strong innings to lead Philadelphia to its fifth straight victory.

Bryce Harper doubled and drove in a run for the Phillies, who pulled within two games of Atlanta for first place in the NL East. Philadelphia last won five in row in August 2018.

Brewers 7, Pirates 6

Eric Sogard bailed out All-Star closer Josh Hader by hitting his first career game-ending homer, a two-run shot that lifted Milwaukee to the victory.

After Hader walked five of six batters in the top of the ninth to blow a one-run lead, Sogard connected off Richard Rodriguez (0-2) with no outs in the bottom of the inning. Jace Peterson was on first following a leadoff walk.

Rockies 4, Padres 3

Pinch-hitter Daniel Murphy hit a one-out RBI single in the ninth inning, lifting Colorado over San Diego for its first walkoff win of the season.

Trevor Story, Raimel Tapia and Garrett Hampson also hit run-scoring singles for Colorado, which blew a three-run lead in the eighth. Antonio Senzatela got a no-decision after pitching seven scoreless innings.

Red Sox 5, Nationals 3

Xander Bogaerts hit an early three-run homer and Boston's bullpen finished with 6 2/3 scoreless innings.

Kevin Pillar added a solo homer and triple for Boston, which had lost four of its last five. Ryan Brasier (1-0), the fifth of six relievers, was credited with the victory. Matt Barnes recorded the final three outs for his third save.

Rays 4, Marlins 0

Rookie Josh Fleming and four relievers combined on a three-hitter, and Tampa Bay pitchers extended their streak of success at Marlins Park to 36 consecutive scoreless innings.

Tampa Bay shut out the Marlins for the second night in a row, and also blanked them in both meetings in Miami last year.

Indians 2, Cardinals 1, 12 innings

Tyler Naquin hit a go-ahead double for Cleveland in the 12th inning, then Yadier Molina made a baserunning blunder and got trapped for the final out.

A day after getting 20 hits in a rout, the Indians totaled just five in winning their fourth in a row.

Naquin doubled off Alex Reyes (1-1) to drive in pinch runner Mike Freeman, who started the inning at second base. That was Cleveland's only hit after the eighth inning.

Nick Wittgren (2-0) got the win, and Brad Hand earned his 10th save.

Royals 9, White Sox 6

Maikel Franco and Ryan McBroom homered during Kansas City's five-run seventh.

Ryan O'Hearn and Alex Gordon also went deep for Kansas City, which had dropped five of six, including consecutive 6-5 losses where the opponent won in its final at-bat.

The last-place Royals finalized a trade during the win, sending reliever Trevor Rosenthal to San Diego for young outfielder Edward Olivares and a player to be named.

Tigers 8, Twins 2, Game 1
Tigers 4, Twins 2, Game 2

Miguel Cabrera hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the fifth inning, lifting the Tigers to a doubleheader sweep.

Detroit took the opener behind Matthew Boyd (1-4), who pitched six solid innings for his first victory of the season. Victor Reyes had four hits.

Rookie Tarik Skubal (1-1) allowed two runs in five innings in the second game for his first big league win. Gregory Soto allowed the first two batters to reach in the seventh, but he got Miguel Sano to hit into a double play and closed the game out for his first career save.

Astros 4, Athletics 2, Game 1
Astros 6, Athletics 3, Game 2

Kyle Tucker hit a bases-clearing triple, George Springer homered and Houston competed a doubleheader sweep.

In the first game, Lance McCullers Jr. (3-2) pitched six effective innings for the Astros, and Tucker hit a three-run homer.

The doubleheader was scheduled after the Athletics and Astros decided not to play Friday night in order to raise awareness of racial inequality in the wake of the police shooting of 29-year-old Jacob Blake, a Black man, in Wisconsin.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 2

Evan Longoria hit two doubles, Brandon Belt reached base four times and San Francisco snapped a three-game losing streak.

San Francisco starter Trevor Cahill retired his first eight batters but left the game abruptly in the fourth inning with left hip discomfort. The move came a few pitches after he gave up a two-run homer to Christian Walker that pulled the D-backs within 4-2.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 0

Taijuan Walker pitched six shutout innings in his Toronto debut.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Cavan Biggio each hit a two-run single, helping the Blue Jays improve to 5-0 against the Orioles this season.

Walker (3-2), who was acquired in a trade with Seattle on Thursday, allowed four hits in his first outing since learning that his father and siblings, who live in Lake Charles, Louisiana, lost their property and belongings in Hurricane Laura.

Djokovic, Serena chase history in bubble

NEW YORK—The US Open becomes the first Grand Slam of the COVID-19 era when it starts Monday in a spectator-free bubble at Flushing Meadows following a troubled build-up that saw several top stars withdraw over coronavirus fears.

Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams headline a tournament that will be unrecognisable from previous Slams due to strict safety protocols that were still not enough to convince some of tennis's biggest names to travel to New York.

Defending champion Rafael Nadal and women's number one Ashleigh Barty are among high-profile absentees at the US National Tennis Center, which just months ago was transformed into an emergency coronavirus field hospital.

Raucous crowds are a hallmark of the US Open, but this the cavernous Arthur Ashe Stadium will be eerily empty to mitigate the risk of infection from the deadly pandemic that has wiped out much of the tennis season, including Wimbledon.

The players are being kept in a tightly controlled environment with regular COVID-19 testing throughout the tournament. Any competitor who tests positive once the event has started will be automatically withdrawn.

Most competitors are staying at one of two hotels where they will be shuttled the 30 minutes to and from the tennis center.

A few, including Djokovic and Williams, have chosen to stay in private homes where they must pay for 24-hour security approved by the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

The security teams are obliged to provide the USTA with information regarding when the player leaves and arrives at the house.

No player is allowed to travel anywhere other than between the tennis center and their accommodation. Any player who leaves the bubble without the written consent of organizers will be thrown out of the tournament. ***(NBC)***

Tiger won't qualify for Tour Championship

ILLINOIS—The round started with promise and ended in disaster. Here are a few thoughts and observations after Tiger Woods' third round at the BMW Championship, as the reigning Masters champ now has just one round left in his 2019-20 season:

After two days of struggling amid difficult conditions, Woods came out of the gates strong with an early-morning time alongside PGA champ Collin Morikawa. Two birdies in his first five holes helped him make the turn in 2 under, and Woods didn't drop a shot over his first nine holes.

But almost immediately after making the turn, things started to go south. He didn't hit a fairway until No. 18, a run of seven misses in a row off the tee, and was left to scramble on nearly every hole simply to stay under par for the round.

Things fell apart on the par-4 17th, where his tee shot sailed into the water and his approach hooked into the trees. It led to a triple-bogey 7 and the biggest blemish in a round of 2-over 72. After the round, Woods declined to speak with the media for the second straight day.

The final stat line on a round that began with some promising signs and ended with his ball-striking falling apart at the seams: 6 of 14 fairways, 11 of 18 greens in regulation and 29 putts.

His trusty Scotty Cameron putter, which had been temperamental through the first two rounds, decided to cooperate more from short range. But a 10-foot par save on No. 14 was his longest make of the day, with birdies on Nos. 3 and 5 both coming from short makes. All told, Woods holed less than 63 feet of putts on the round—by far his lowest total of the tournament.

AP

Tiger Woods hits from a bunker on the first hole during the second round of the BMW Championship golf tournament, Friday, Aug. 28, 2020, at Olympia Fields Country Club in Olympia Fields, Ill.

Woods is now 10 over for the week at Olympia Fields and was T-57 when he signed his card. Needing a Top 4 finish at the start of the week to potentially advance to the season-ending Tour Championship, he now knows that his 2019-20 campaign ends this week outside Chicago. The point projections after his round showed that Woods was expected to drop eight spots in the standings, from No. 57 to No. 65, with only the Top 30 advancing to East Lake.

BMW Championship

Johnson, Matsuyama tied

Dustin Johnson says his game feels similar to last week when he had the easiest of his 23 career victories.

It just doesn't look that way at the BMW Championship.

Every par at Olympia Fields is hard work, and Johnson played the final 13 holes Saturday with nothing worse than that. It's what carried him to a 1-under 69 and a share of the lead with Matsuyama, leaving them as the only players under par going into the final round.

"I feel like it's fairly similar, just obviously these conditions and the greens are a lot more difficult," he said. "This is pretty much a major championship venue, and the conditions, the way it's set up, it's playing just like a major."

Matsuyama, who had a three-shot lead early when he holed a bunker shot for eagle at the start and stuffed a wedge in tight for birdie on No. 4, fell back with a string of bogeys and held it together for a 69.

"Great start and then just had to hang on," Matsuyama said. "Just tried to do what I could to stay in, and I was happy with how it went."

Johnson and Maruyama were at 1-under 209. Everyone else was over par going into the final round.

REGIONAL

From Page 20

Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia are also in the North Pacific group, while the East block is made up of players from the Cook Islands, Tonga, Norfolk Islands, Tahiti, and Samoa. Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, American Samoa, and Papua New Guinea are on the West group.

Besides the team and individual contests in the POJC, the annual tournament also has the Nations Cup in Fiji with winners determined based on the performance of the players of each country. The CNMI hoisted the Nations Cup in 2017 and 2018 before losing the title to Tahiti last year.

RACE

From Page 20

That special memory besides the many skills and life lessons she learned while under the CNMI soccer program make Race want to rejoin the national squad.

"Every single tournament that I played in with the WNT was an amazing experience. If I had to pick one to be the best, it would probably be the EAFF qualifying tournament in 2014 when we won our first international game against Macau. Being a part of the team that made history and having scored one of the 7 goals is something I will always be proud of," Race said.

The Marianas High School graduate delivered the third goal for the WNT in that victory against Macau, giving the team a promising 3-0 lead at halftime.

Meanwhile, Angie Ito, one of the NMIFA coaches facilitating the WNT's training sessions, said they have been in contact with off-island and former national team players, including Race and they are always welcome to work out with the current pool.

"We've been keeping them inform about upcoming events and other schedules about the team. If they are returning to the island and staying for a while, joining the training is one of the best ways to improve and continue the development of our players' techniques and skills," Ito said.

The NMIFA coach added that they've been updated with the fitness level and physical condition of interested players.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

In this 2014 file photo, Gabi Race, left, and her teammates on the CNMI Women's National Team pay respect to the CNMI flag before playing against Macau in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Training Centre in Harmon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this undated photo, Gabi Race, fourth row right, poses with her Saddleback College teammates and coaches after one of their games in the California Community College Athletics Association.

In Race's case, though she had been off-island for more than four years, she never stopped playing soccer. In fact, she made it on Saddleback College's women's soccer team in the California Community College Athletics Association and played defensive center midfield/center back for two seasons.

The daughter of CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race scored in her debut (2016) with Saddleback after handing the Gauchos their second goal in their 10-0 rout of Cuyamaca College. Race saw action in more than 20 games for two years for Saddleback and after completing her junior college, she moved to California Polytechnic State University and played in club leagues.

The CNMI athlete, who was also into track, basketball, volleyball, and tennis before she focused on soccer, is excited at the prospects of playing on island anew and working with the new set of national players.

"The thing I miss most about the CNMI WNT is the camaraderie. The team is so special because it feels like a second family. We spend so much time together between training year-round and travelling for tournaments that you create really close bonds with each other, as well as your coaches and managers. If the NMIFA will have me back at training, I am definitely looking forward to seeing my old friends/teammates and meeting the new girls on the team," Race said.

Bucks, Lakers advance to semifinals

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yankees beat Mets to stop 7-game slide

PAGE 18

Race eyes return to national team

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

In this 2016 file photo, the CNMI's Gabrielle Race, second left, plays tough defense on a Personal Finance Center Lady Crushers player during a training match at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

In this 2014 file photo, Gabi Race, standing left, poses with her fellow starters for the CNMi Women's National Team before they play against host Guam in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Student Athlete of the Year awardee Gabi Race always looks forward for the opportunity and honor to play for the CNMI Women's National Team.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

After graduating from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California, with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Race said returning to Saipan and joining the ongoing training sessions of the national squad at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville have been on her mind.

"I would love to attend the national team training, but it's up to the coaches and other NMIFA (Northern Mariana Islands Football Association) staff and officials," said Race, who had donned the CNMI colors three times before leaving Saipan for college.

The 2014 Tan Siu Lin Foundation/Northern Marianas Sports Association Female Student Athlete of the Year was part of the CNMI Women's National Team that made history for the Commonwealth's women soccer, as the squad earned its first international win after shutting down Macau, 7-0, incidentally in 2014 during the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon.

See RACE on Page 19

Regional tennis championships canceled

OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

In this 2018 file photo, the CNMI's Jimin Woo is seen here competing in the Paficic Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There will be no Pacific Oceania Junior Championships this year.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race confirmed the cancelation of the tournament featuring 18 of the 20 member-countries of the Oceania Tennis Federation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's POJC was supposed to take place from Oct. 15 to 24 with the dates had already been adjusted since the competition is usually set between July and August.

The POJC is held in Fiji every year and holds singles and doubles tournaments in the U14 and U16 age groups and a team event in the U12 division. Players are selected to see action in POJC based on their performance in three regional competitions—North, East, and West qualifiers.

Neither of the three divisions was able to have its respective championship due to the pandemic, too. The East and West qualifiers were initially slated for May, while the North Pacific Regional Championships where the CNMI competes was to take place in June. The North qualifier was then moved to July (13 to 17) before host Guam rescheduled the qualifier anew to Sept. 5 to 9. Guam had to eventually pulled the plug on the tournament due to the spike in the COVID-19 cases on the island.

See REGIONAL on Page 19